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WORLD

The Francis Revolution is underway. Not everyone is pleased.
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OFFBEAT

Three sisters in Utah give birth to three baby boys in July.
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LIFE & STYLE

J.K. Rowling accepts donation for accidental revelation of her new identity. ➤ PAGE 28

Pension cut is just 'deferment'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Those with least pensions will be restored first
» Lawmakers yet to rally behind Inos on deal

Gov. Eloy S. Inos assured yesterday that the proposed 25-percent cut in retirees' pension is only a "deferment" and not a "permanent reduction," especially for those receiving the least amount of pension. It remains to be seen whether lawmakers will rally behind the administration in the ongoing NMI Retirement Fund settlement.

A deferment—as opposed to a permanent cut—in pension is not an impairment of retirees' constitutional rights, as the administration puts it.

"If reduction is the way to go, it will come from the back end. And restore the reductions in a manner that the folks with the least annual benefits, those impacted the most by the reduction, will get the most restoration," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* at yesterday's opening of the two-day CNMI Women's Summit at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Inos acknowledged that lawmakers have raised a legitimate concern about the impact of such a deferment on retirees who get $6,000 to $10,000 in pension, for example.

"So a guy with the $6,000 [pension] obviously would get hit on the first round, because of the 25 percent. But once we put together the funding to pay them back, from my standpoint, they would be restored to the fullest so they

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WOMEN'S SUMMIT

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and NMI Alicia Limtiaco gestures as she talks about human trafficking in the region and the ways in which community members can help prevent and stop it, at yesterday's opening of the two-day CNMI Women's Summit at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other CNMI and Guam leaders also took part in the event, with the theme, "Women making a difference."
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See story on Page 2 ➤

NMC belies threat of lawsuit vs USDOE

The Northern Marianas College issued a statement yesterday to clarify a television news story that aired on Wednesday. The report stated that the college was considering filing a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Education if that agency revokes NMC's eligibility for federal financial aid for its bachelor's program.

RELATED NEWS
➤ Legislature urges USDOE to reconsider NMC grant. PAGE 5

According to the college, president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., did not state in her conversation with the reporter that the college would file a lawsuit. Rather, she said the college is prepared to take the next step, and in this case, the next step was to meet with the

Hart

See NMC on Page 4

Myers quits OAG after 22 days

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Attorney Robert Myers Jr. has quit as a prosecutor, a position that he held less than a month at the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

Myers confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he resigned as an assistant attorney general on Wednesday. He began work at the OAG's Criminal Division only on July 9.

Myers

Myers said he made the decision to resign after chief prosecutor Shelli Neal informed him that his civil private cases, which he continues to handle, pose a conflict of interest.

He said he joined the OAG Criminal Division after Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas told him he could start working for the OAG as he

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Inos places WIA under Labor; extends CHC emergency. PAGE 3
Origin of salad-linked outbreak remains a mystery. PAGE 22

Local

AT CNMI WOMEN'S SUMMIT

'You can help fight human trafficking'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

As statistics on human trafficking in the Marianas, the Pacific region and around the globe have become too glaring, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and CNMI Alicia Limtiaco said each and every community member can help prevent and stop it from spreading further.

"If you're suspicious, or you're concerned, make that phone call to [authorities]," Limtiaco said as she went over a list of labor and sex trafficking indicators or "red flags."

In many cases, suspected victims live with their employer, are in poor living conditions, and are accompanied by another person who seems controlling. Multiple suspected victims of human trafficking could also be in cramped spaces.

Limtiaco was one of the resource persons at yesterday's opening of the two-day CNMI Women's Summit at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in keeping with the summit's theme, "Women making a difference," told participants, "I'm here to tell you that yes, you all can make a difference."

"Inspirational women can be found throughout the world. I encourage you to inspire each other with your examples and with your achievements. You all have a chance to show us all that good things can be done with grace, dignity, and style," the governor said in his remarks.

The event drew about a hundred participants led by Women's Association chair Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), other CNMI and Guam leaders including Speaker Judi Won Pat.

Limtiaco, in her presentation, talked about "domestic trafficking" that does not involve victims from other countries. "We're talking about our own children who are forced into commercial sex," she said.

The U.S. State Department recently released its 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report, tagging the CNMI as a "destination and transit location for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking."

Limtiaco encouraged the public to be observant and be alert. If they suspect something, call the Department of Public Safety, the Office of the Attorney General, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, various nongovernment agencies such as Guma Esperansa.

"There are many partners in the community who we all work with because law enforcement certainly cannot do this alone. We need everyone's help," Limtiaco said.

She said it is unfortunate that human trafficking has reached the shores of the CNMI and Guam.

"It's an extremely big industry, it's all fueled by greed and with complete and total lack of respect for the human dignity. It is a major human rights violation and one that unfortunately we are hearing about and looking into within our homes and within our own region because we are as just as vulnerable as anywhere else in the world," she said.

Unlike drug trafficking, which a person sells only once, human traffickers sell victims "over and over and over again."

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), chair of the CNMI Women's Association, said the two-day summit is an opportunity for women to discuss issues that are specific to them and their needs, including education, culture, health, economy, and safety.

"Over the next two days, let us listen actively, engage openly and truly commit to take action, so that we can make a difference and be change agents to enhance our lives, our families and our island communities," she said.

The summit wraps up today.

Inos places WIA under Labor; extends CHC emergency

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In an executive order yesterday, Gov. Eloy S. Inos transferred the Workforce Investment Agency from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Labor to efficiently administer employment services for CNMI residents.

WIA becomes a new division under the Department of Labor.

This has been a part of the governor's longtime plan of merging and consolidating government functions and agencies to improve government services and cut costs.

Labor has a Division of Employment Services whose mission is to encourage and locate private sector employment for Commonwealth residents, while WIA's purpose is also to increase employment, retention, and earnings of its participants.

In his three-page Executive Order 2013-7, the governor said WIA and Labor's Division of Employment Services have similar and oftentimes overlapping services and missions.

"Transferring WIA to DOL reduces duplication of duties and decreases confusion by employment applicants as to where to seek guidance and assistance," the governor said, invoking his constitutional reorganization powers.

This plan becomes effective 60 days after submission to the Legislature, unless specifically modified or disapproved by a majority of the members of each legislative chamber.

Besides the WIA-Labor executive order, the governor also issued Executive Order 2013-16 yesterday, changing the composition, members' appointment, and the terms of appointments of the Northern Marianas Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System.

The governor said that changes to the composition to the Council made by an earlier EO—Executive Order 2006-05—have not led to the expected improvements in efficiency and efficacy expected at the time of that executive order.

Inos said the Council will perform its functions more effectively and efficiently as originally composed under EO No. 16.

He therefore rescinded EO 2006-05 in its totality, and that EO 16 as amended by EO 94-3 and Public Law 11-47, is re-enacted in its entirety.

This includes all sections of the Order relating to the Council's composition, the appointment of Council members, and terms of appointment.

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency was established under the Council, and tasked to comply with the Federal Omnibus Crime Control and Safety Streets Act of 1968 as amended.

The Council guides CJPA to define goals and develop standards for the criminal justice system, among other duties.

On Monday, the governor also issued EO 2013-15, extending anew the state of emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Besides CHC, also under continuing emergency is the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

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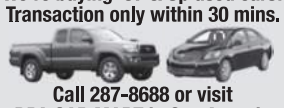
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Man sentenced for felon in possession of rifle, bullets

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced yesterday that Rudy Gumataotao Palomo was sentenced by Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood in the U.S. District Court to 46 months imprisonment for the offense of felon in possession of a firearm, and 46 months imprisonment for the offense of felon in possession of ammunition, both terms to run concurrently.

After serving his sentence, Palomo will be placed on supervised release for three years for each count, to run concurrently, and is required to pay a $200 special assessment fee, and attend a substance abuse program. His jail term is to be served at the Bureau of Prisons facility in Sheridan, Oregon.

On July 29, 2012, Palomo was in possession of a 30.30 Marvin lever action rifle that contained a chambered round of ammunition. Palomo then pointed the firearm at a relative. The relative immediately called police. Guam police officers pulled over Palomo in the village of Yigo and discovered the firearm and ammunition underneath his seat. Because Palomo has prior felony convictions in the Superior Court of Guam, he is prohibited from carrying a firearm or ammunition.

Limtiaco stated: "Felons are absolutely prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition. It is important to protect innocent civilians and law enforcement officers from armed convicts, and felons who possess guns or ammunition must be aware that they will face aggressive prosecution and will receive long prison sentences."

Limtiaco noted that this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative, a nationwide commitment to aggressively prosecute defendants who engage in drug distribution, gang involvement and violent crime.

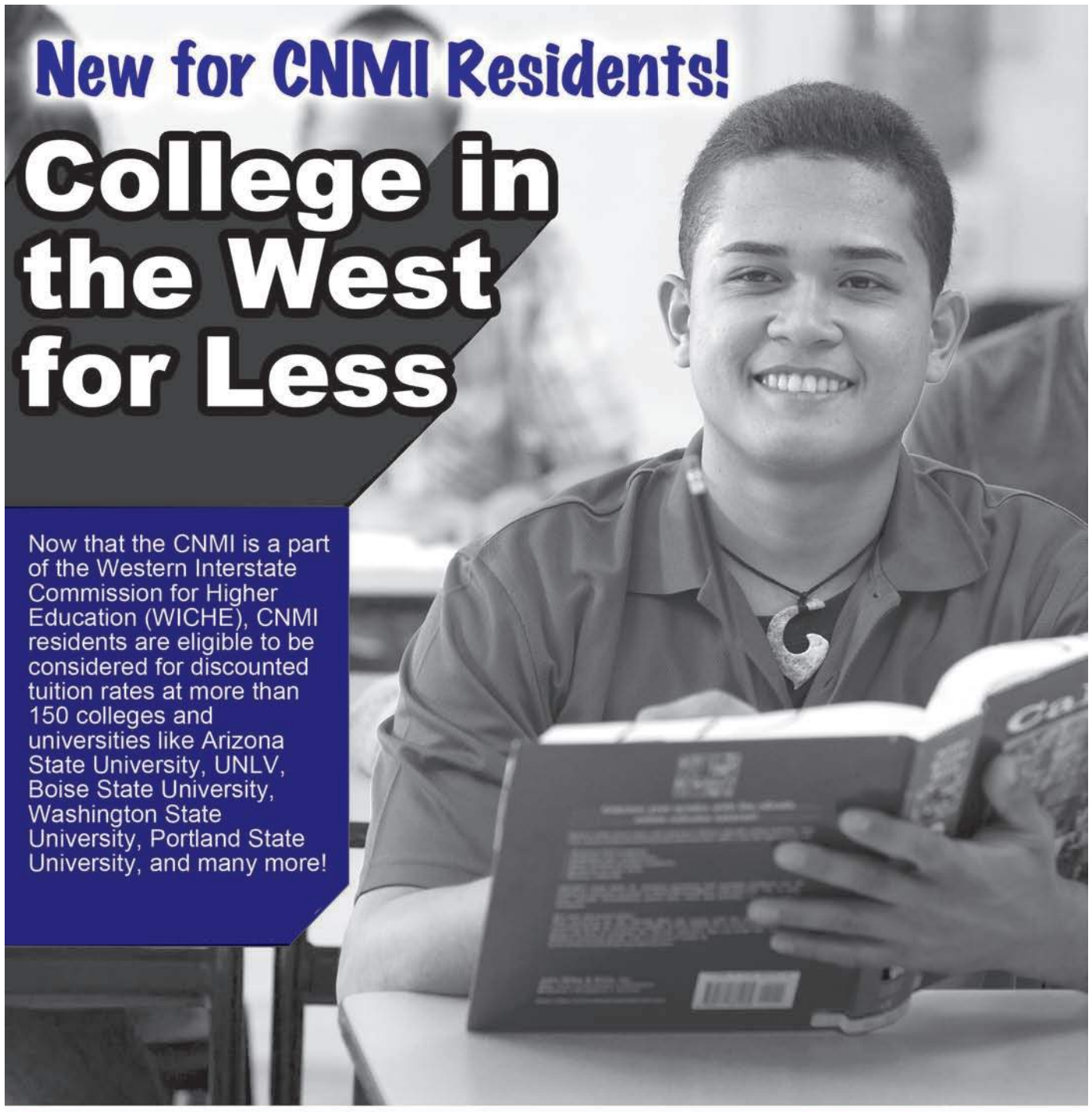
Limtiaco commends the investigative efforts of the Guam Police Department and Task Force officer Katrina Alconaba with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. ***(USAO)***

Three Tinian sites red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on three sites on Tinian—the Unai Masalok Beach, Taga Beach, and the harbor—and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Tinian's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***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Now that the CNMI is a part of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), CNMI residents are eligible to be considered for discounted tuition rates at more than 150 colleges and universities like Arizona State University, UNLV, Boise State University, Washington State University, Portland State University, and many more!

SDA Dental Clinic gives tips on dental hygiene

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Seventh Day Adventist Clinic dental hygienist Maria Claire Joab worked overtime yesterday as guest speaker of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's "Dig Into Reading" summer program, teaching three groups in all on how to care for their teeth.

Her first assignment was with a precocious bunch of 5- to 8-year-olds on how to properly care for their baby pearly whites.

Joab explained to them that her job calls for her to assist dentists, hand them their equipment, and keep nervous patients calm.

She also read a couple of children's books, which were both geared toward educating children on proper teeth care. Joab first read to them *Make Way For Tooth Decay* and the 12 to 15 kids that were part of the group listened intently on how best to prevent it. She also read *Germs! Germs! Germs!*, which dealt with proper oral hygiene.

Her second presentation was for the summer program's 9-and-over age group and a dozen or so Kagman High School students, who were the "Dig Into Reading" program's special guests for the day.

Joab told them it is important to take care of one's teeth because they are needed in order for you to eat, talk, and smile, which elicited some laughs from the youthful audience.

Proper dental care, she said, includes brushing one's teeth at least twice a day, flossing at least once a day, and going to the dentist at least twice a year.

Soda, chips, candy are also some of the food and drinks that people should stay away from as they cause cavities, while oranges, papaya, mango, and watermelon are just a few fruits that keep teeth healthy, according to the SDA Clinic hygienist.

All of the summer program's attendees as well as KagHS students all went home with a gift bag from SDA Clinic that included a toothbrush, floss, and stickers.

Joab said her clinic always obliges invitations to talk about proper dental hygiene. Aside from these yearly presentations, SDA Clinic also holds free dental checkup during its Give Kids A Smile and Clinic With A Heart programs.

KagHS teacher Richard Masiwemai said his students have also visited the Center for Independent Living, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the U.S. Post Office, among others, the past several days.

JKPL Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi thanked Joab and SDA Clinic for again agreeing to be the summer program's guest speaker. She said SDA Clinic is a familiar fixture in their "Dig Into Reading" program each year.

JKPL's "Dig Into Reading" summer program, which has been ongoing since 2006, will have its final day yesterday where attendees will get a certificate of participation.

MARK RABAGO
Seventh Day Adventist Clinic dental hygienist Maria Claire Joab reads *Germs! Germs! Germs!* as yesterday's special guest of the "Dig Into Reading" summer program of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

NMC

From Page 1

Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education if necessary.

The college had earlier announced that it was meeting with Martha Kanter, the Undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Education, earlier this week.

"We had a very strong and firm presence with the Department of Education," said Hart. "The letter from Gov. [Eloy S.] Inos to the Undersecretary was also provided during this meeting."

"Additionally and very importantly, we were accompanied to this meeting by some very influential and strong national educational leaders and our U.S. congressional offices," added Hart. "The presence of all of these individuals and their strong verbal support for a positive resolution by the department to both Northern Marianas College and American Samoa Community College was tremendous."

"And, very importantly, is to have this resolution happen as quickly as possible," Hart said. "The college is prepared to move this up the ladder to the Secretary of the USDOE, as that would be our next step."

Hart also stressed that "it is important that our students within the baccalaureate program know that we will continue to do all we can at Northern Marianas College to help them to receive the financial aid packages they need in order to attend college with us." ***(NMC)***

PENSION

From Page 1

will still be 100 percent as opposed to the guy who's making $100,000. Maybe that guy will probably not get any restored at all. So in the end you have a graduated [system]," the governor added.

House Special Committee on Retirement Issues Rep. Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan) separately said he is "keeping an open mind" about the tentative deal reached by the parties in the Betty Johnson lawsuit.

"I'm saying it's too soon to propose to cut. There's already enough money to last the Fund for two years. If we could postpone the 25 percent, the better, until we get a clearer picture," Taitano said.

The 25 percent deferred pension will be restored when there is a new source of funds or when the pension agency reaches some level of financial stability.

"We call it just deferred, that's what it is," the governor said.

That is why besides the $20 million in general fund remittance to the Fund in fiscal year 2014—double the $10 million in 2013—the administration is also eyeing floating a pension obligation bond plus new revenue-generating measures from the Legislature.

"It's not [permanent], and in the end, if things are good they will be made whole for everything they're supposed [to receive], that they deserve," the governor said.

Lawmakers, including Reps. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), and Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), said the smaller the pension a retiree receives, the smaller the cut should be, if it is the only solution to prolonging the Fund's lifespan.

Retirees receiving $10,000 or less, for example, should either be exempted from the cut or receive only a minimum cut, lawmakers said.

But the governor clarified that because it is a class action suit, the temporary cut or deferment has to apply "across the board."

"We cannot have different benefit reduction for certain people in that same class. We're going to have to establish a new class and that could create lots of problems because you got different people with different interests. Our idea is to go through that one set of reduction across the board," Inos said.

Taitano is considering asking for another meeting with the governor and committee members.

Inos said the administration is trying to strike a balance "so that all parties' concerns would be addressed—from retirees to active employees to the taxpayers in general who have to foot this thing at the end of the day."

"We're still trying to strike an acceptable balance," he said.

Although the Legislature's express support to the terms of the tentative deal is not a requirement, the administration would like a unified government effort to address the Fund's issues.

An earlier estimate stated that the Fund will cease to exist by March 2014.

The government owes the Fund some $300 million in unremitted employer contributions.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 4th birthday to Janvir Castaneda, who will be celebrating his special day on Sunday, Aug. 4.2013! May you have many more birthdays to come! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Tatay, Kuya Jemo and Kuya Jerome.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Open registration for WSR

The last day to register will be on Aug. 9, 2013, for all ongoing and new students for the William S. Reyes Elementary School for school year 2013-204. Register before the due date to avoid any missed school days.

For those that miss the due date, registration will open on Sept. 3, 2013. Please provide copies of updated health certificate, student insurance/ Medicaid, and birth certificate. All other required documents must be completed before accepting enrollment. Visit the office or call 237-3542 during business hours if you have any inquiries. ***(PR)***

MYERS

From Page 1

winds down his civil cases in his law practice.

He said San Nicolas told him to just not handle any criminal cases, which he didn't do.

"I started as planned and worked early hours without taking lunch breaks and staying late, so that I could put in the hours but be able to leave to go to my law practice to work on winding down such cases and working to withdraw or substitute out of such cases. Again, JP [San Nicolas] said that I could make time to do that," he said.

Myers said that everything was fine until he recently filed a motion for temporary restraining order in a lawsuit brought by his client, Pacific Investment Development Corp., against the departments of Public Lands and Finance over an alleged sole-source contract to lease a public land where Coral Ocean Point Resort sits.

He said that assistant attorneys general Peter Prestley and Gilbert Birnbrich asked him in a speakerphone conversation why he was suing them. Myers said he explained that his client is suing DPL and Finance and that he had already made prior arrangement with San Nicolas.

He said nothing was mentioned about any of his other civil cases against the CNMI government.

"The fuss is just over the PIDC case, period," he said.

When the time came for him to file PIDC's reply to DPL/Finance's opposition on Tuesday, Myers said he spoke with San Nicolas about whether a stipulation to extend the TRO and time to file his reply and substitute another attorney for his client was okay.

The lawyer said the attorney general thought so and stated he would speak to Prestley about it.

As the day was coming to an end, Myers said, Prestley stated he had not spoken with San Nicolas about it, but that he would not agree to extending the TRO.

He said he told Prestley to speak with the AG but, getting no response, he went to his law office, prepared his reply, and filed it in court.

Myers said Prestley sent him an email the next day, saying he was going to seek his disqualification.

Myers said that chief prosecutor Neal then came in, talked to him about the PIDC case, and stated that she and the Civil Division thought there was a conflict of interest and that it was not fair for him to be able to work as an assistant attorney general and get paid while also winding down his private practice, especially the PIDC matter.

Myers said he stated that if they're saying he cannot handle his civil cases like PIDC, arguing the motion today, Friday, which he is bound to honor as per ethics and court rules, then he must stop working at the OAG so he would not violate the rules.

He then got his things out of the OAG Criminal Division and told the staff and Neal to take care. Myers said Neal asked him if he wanted to reconsider his decision, but he told her he already made his decision.

Legislature urges USDOE to reconsider NMC grant

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives and the Senate have joined Gov. Eloy S. Inos in urging the U.S. Department of Education to reconsider its decision to render the Northern Marianas College's School of Education ineligible for federal financial aid.

By a vote of 16-0 with four absences, the House adopted yesterday afternoon Senate Joint Resolution 18-6, which cleared the Senate on Friday last week.

"The implementation of this harsh action would devastate the financial stability of the Northern Marianas College and would potentially close down the School of Education, which serves an important function of the CNMI community," the lawmakers said in the three-page resolution.

House members also passed three bills yesterday, including reducing utility rates for the Public School System and imposing a fine and no jail time for anyone found in possession of small amounts of marijuana.

House Education Committee chair Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), during the session, said he supports the USDOE-NMC resolution's intent but he reminded his colleagues that this could be viewed as "political interference."

Benavente's statement drew reactions from his colleagues, including Reps. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) who all disagreed with him.

The speaker clarified that the House and the Senate are not trying to influence NMC's internal policies or decisions, but are only asking for a reconsideration of USDOE's decision affecting NMC.

"There is no harm by asking; it shows we are concerned," Deleon Guerrero said.

The USDOE is preparing to render a policy decision that will make NMC's bachelor's program in education ineligible for Title IV federal funding, saying that dual accreditation is not in accordance with its policy. This is based on its view that the joint accreditation process under two accrediting agencies is inconsistent with its Higher Education Act.

NMC is accredited by both the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities.

Reduced CUC rates, marijuana bills

Besides adopting the USDOE-NMC resolution, the House also passed three bills before adjourning at past 4pm yesterday.

By a vote of 12-4, the House passed House Bill 18-42, House Draft 2, which only imposes a fine but not jail time for anyone found in possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use, similar to a traffic payable offense requiring no formal arrest and no detention.

Those who voted "no" were House minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan), floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Reps. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), and Richard Seman (R-Saipan).

Absent from the session were Reps. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Teresita Santos (R-Rota), and Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan). The rest voted "yes."

Leon Guerrero, the bill's author, offered a floor amendment increasing the minimum fines, which was later adopted by members.

His original bill imposes a $50 fine and no jail time for anyone found in possession of 1 ounce or less of marijuana for personal use. The fine is now $75 under the amended bill

From the original proposal of $100, the new penalty for marijuana possession in the amount over 1 ounce but not more than 5 ounces is $125 and no jail time.

Anyone found in possession of more than 5 ounces but not more than 1 lb. of marijuana shall be fined $250, and no formal arrest and detention too.

The amended bill also says any person possessing more than 1 lb but less than 1.5 lbs of marijuana may be sentenced to not more than one month jail time, a fine not more than $500, or both.

Those found in possession of more than 1.5 lbs but less than 2.2 lbs. may be sentenced to not more than three months, a fine of not more than $1,000, or both.

By a vote of 16-0, the House also passed Senate Bill 18-12, House Draft 1, amending the law on executive appointments.

Under the bill, if the governor's appointment is not submitted to the Senate within a 30-day period, that nomination is automatically terminated and the person cannot be re-nominated to the same post. The bill now goes to the governor.

The House also passed SB 18-7, Senate Substitute 1, with amendment, as offered by vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan).

This bill, which passed the House by a vote of 16-0, mandates the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to reduce the Public School System's water service and wastewater service rate. The bill goes back to the Senate.

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Nine years in prison for man in 'ice,' gun case

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced yesterday that Kevin Michael Cruz was sentenced by U.S. District Court Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood to 111 months imprisonment for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine hydrochloride and use of a firearm during a crime of violence. After serving his sentence, Cruz will be placed on supervised release for three years for the conspiracy count, followed by five years for the firearm offense. He is also required to perform community service, pay a $200 special assessment fee, and attend a substance abuse program.

On Sept. 4, 2012, local and federal Marshals were searching for fugitive Cruz, who was wanted for a warrant of arrest. Marshals discovered Cruz hiding in a motel room at the Palm Ridge Inn in Barrigada, Guam. Cruz was armed with a .9 millimeter Encom America handgun, nine rounds of ammunition, a .22 caliber Savage shotgun, a M-84 stun grenade, and a detonator. He was also in possession of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "ice." Cruz admitted that he used the firearm, which he referred to as a "machine gun," to protect his drug distribution business.

Limtiaco said: "Firearms and drugs is a potentially deadly combination. Armed drug dealers present a huge risk to innocent civilians and law enforcement officers. Those who use firearms to protect their illegal activities must know that they will face long prison sentences.

"Methamphetamine has been linked to an increase in violent crimes and results in devastating effects to individuals and to the community. Those who engage in the criminal importation, receipt, and sale of this illegal drug will be prosecuted and face severe penalties."

Limtiaco noted that this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative, a nationwide commitment to aggressively prosecute defendants who engage in drug distribution, gang involvement and violent crime.

Limtiaco commends the investigative efforts of the Marshals with the U.S. Marshals Service and the Superior Court of Guam, as well as Special Agents Darren Massin and Aaron Joseph with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. ***(USAO)***

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
CPA-PAN-002-13
"SALE OF 2 UNITS 2006 USED MERCURY OUTBOARD ENGINES 250 HP/FOUR STROKE"

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is inviting individuals, boat owners or firm's interested in buying a pair of 2006 Mercury Outboard Engine/250HP/Four Stroke (used).

The engines will be sold as a pair only and may be inspected at the CPA Sea Port Office located at the Port of Saipan by contacting Ms. Maryann Q. Lizama or Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3560.

The auction will take place on August 15, 2013 at the Sea Port Office, Port of Saipan beginning 2:00 PM Local Time until 4:00 PM. The bidder submitting the highest bid is required to pay 20% down payment on acceptance of bid. Balance shall be payable at CPA Accounting Office at the Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building within five (5) working days from closing date of the auction. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment must be made in cash, cashier's check or money order payable to Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The pair of engines are sold "AS IS" AND "WHERE IS" and WITHOUT WARRANTY. The sold items must be removed from CPA property within five (5) calendar days from date of full payment. CPA will not be responsible for said items after the said specified time.

CPA maintains the right to set a minimum bid on the pair of engines. CPA further reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Public Auction Notice; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation prior to and at the auction.

CPA assumes no responsibilities for any costs incurred by bidders in their preparation of the bids.

Inquiries may be directed to the Procurement Officer, Mr. Alex C. Tudela, at telephone number 237-6563.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ Maryann Q. Lizama
Acting Executive Director

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Chicken Leg Quarter
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Reg. $26.99 — $25.99 33lbs

Whole Chicken
Reg. $41.99
$40.99 30lbs

Pork Spareribs
Reg. $21.99
$20.49 20lbs

Babyribs
Reg. $22.99
$21.49 10lbs

Ichiban
Reg. $10.99
$9.99 CASE

Butane Gas
$22.99 CASE

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Chorizos $15.99 3 lbs.

Country Lime Lemonade, Tang Orange, Kool-Aid $7.99

Coffee Mate $7.99 50 OZ.

Folgers Coffee $11.99 33.3 OZ.

Del Monte Whole Corn 99¢ 15 OZ.
Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn $5.79 106 OZ.

Spam All Kinds $2.35 EA LIMIT 6

Black Label Luncheon $1.79 EA.. LIMIT 6

Campbells Chicken Noodle 89¢ 10 OZ.

King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal $31.99

Kool-Aid Jammers/ Caprisun $2.99 BOX

Sunkist $6.99 CASE

Ruby Kist Orange & Apple Juice $3.99 64oz.

Lotus Rice 50lbs. $23.99

White Sugar 2kg $2.79 2 KG.

Fresco Vegetable Oil $9.99 1 GAL.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce $4.49 1.6 L.

| FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN |

Tilapia $1.09 /LB.

Milk Fish $1.39 /LB.

Sea Wave Calamari $1.89 16oz.

Vega Shrimp $6.29

Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.29

Bar S Ham $18.99 10LBS.

Bar S Bacon $3.39

Ground Beef $11.99 5LBS.

Chamorro Sausage $4.49

| FAMILY BAG | FAMILY BAG | FAMILY BAG |

Stew Chicken	$5.99	Pork Chop	$11.99
Chicken Leg Qtr	$4.99	Pork Spareribs	$6.99
Chicken Nuggets	$11.99	Pork Butt Steak	$9.99
Chicken Wings	$12.99	Beef Ribeye	$15.99
Turkey Tail	$6.99	Beef Stew	$12.99
Mackerel Fish	$5.99	Beef Shank	$11.99
Mackerel Pike	$6.49	Beef Feet	$7.99
Pork Hock	$7.99	Beef Shortribs	$18.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99	Ox Tail	$15.99
Pork Bellies	$11.99	Smoked Ham Steak	$12.99

| PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE |

Onion 69¢ LB.

Potato 79¢ LB.

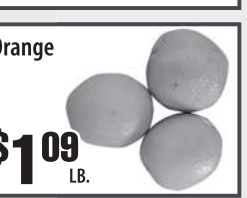
Cabbage 99¢ LB.

Garlic $1.25 5 PCS.

Broccoli $1.49 LB.

Celo Apple $3.99 /BAG

Orange $1.09 LB.



Honeydew/ Cantaloupe 99¢ LB.

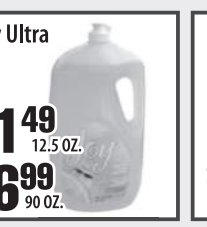
Korean Pear $2.99 LB.

U.S. X-Large Eggs $2.19 1 DOZ.

| NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD |

Dawn Dishwashing Soap $8.99 90 oz.

Joy Ultra $1.49 12.5 OZ. $6.99 90 OZ.



Purex $4.49 50 OZ.

Gain Liquid $5.99 50 OZ. $9.99 100 OZ.

Gain Powder $15.99 102 Loads $18.99 120 Loads

Head & Shoulders *Shampoo* $7.99 *All Kinds* $5.49 23OZ.

Bounty Paper Towel $20.99 15 Rolls

Charmin Basic Toilet Paper $7.99 12ROLLS $14.99 24ROLLS

Foam Plates $3.29 50 CT $7.99 125 CT

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will be holding a public meeting regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-98-X-070 submitted by Saipan Surfrider, LLC. The purpose of the public meeting is to discuss the permit amendment request for the proposed Surf Rider Resort Spa & Beach Club in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. The project site is located within the former Silver Resort Hotel and Pacific Gardenia Hotel.

The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 06, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Coastal Resources Management Office in Susupe, Saipan.

The public is invited to attend and make oral comments regarding this project. The project file is open for review and comments during business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Written comments can be submitted to the CRM Office located in Susupe, Saipan immediately behind the Bureau of Motor Vehicle building, or mail to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007 pr fax at 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this project.

/s/ ANA C. AGULTO
Acting Administrator
Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/FHWA-13-RFP-011

Saipan – Tinian Route Ferry Service Feasibility Study for Inter-Island Marine Public Transportation System, CNMI

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude Hofschneider,, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to examine and prepare the economic feasibility of establishing and developing a publicly owned and privately operated ferry service in the form of a contract with the public entity for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Inter-Island Marine Public Transportation System between the Islands of Saipan and Tinian that expands both passenger and auto services as described in the Statement of Work of this RFP.

This project is funded in whole using Federal-aid Highway funds administered under the Department of Public Works. The project funding limit authorized by the grantor shall not exceed $170,000.00 unless additional funding has been identified by the CNMI Government.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-210** of the regulations.

The RFP Package including consultant qualification requirements, proposal submittal requirements, and Scope of Work will be made available on or after **August 2, 2013** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Saipan. A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center on September 3, 2013. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commerc ial Center Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time September 17, 2013.

Evaluation Criteria
Submitted proposals will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee assigned by the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board, Office of the Governor based on the following four criterion with the following weights: (1) Relevant Experience and Qualifications of the firm (30%); (2) Proposed Approach (30%); (3) Schedule of Completion (20%) and Demonstrated Capacity and Ability to Perform the Work Required (20%). Proposers must submit with their proposal the required information for each criteria as further described in the Statement of Work. These ranking factors are summarized in the table below.

The total proposal submitted shall be no more than fifty (50) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Pre-Contract Requirements
Prior to being awarded a contract for professional consulting services, the firm or company must have submitted the following:

a) A valid CNMI Business License to perform such services;
b) Have a certification stating the firm has no pending federal or local court judgment(s) or cases against the firm in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and
c) Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension.

The firm shall be responsible for obtaining proper licenses, permits, clearances, or authorizations for the proper execution of a contract within the CNMI as required by law.

For any contract or subcontract related to the study/analysis of any project funded in whole or in part with Federal-aid Highway funds, the proposal submitted for the contract, is required to show what the indirect cost (overhead cost not associated with any one particular project defined under 48 CFR §31.203) associated with the project are, to state how the indirect cost figure was reached, and to certify (pursuant to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order No. 4470.1A that they are allowable costs under 48 CFR §31.2.

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and bear all risk concerning delivery.

Proposal Submittal
Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-13-RFP-011"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, September 20, 2013 to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, September 20, 2013, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 20, 2013 AND must be received no later than October 1, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

These projects are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Rape suspect's plea to lower $100K cash bail is denied

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has denied a motion to lower the $100,000 cash bail imposed on a hotel employee who was arrested for allegedly raping a female tourist.

At a hearing on Wednesday afternoon, Camacho denied Bradley Demapan's request to release him to his father as third-party custodian and upon posting of a property bond.

The judge denied the motion because the 26-year-old Demapan was living with his father at the time of the alleged crime and was not able to properly supervise him.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as counsel for Demapan. Assistant attorney general Margo Brown represented the government.

Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 6.

In denying the motion, Camacho stated that the allegations against Demapan are exactly that at this stage—merely allegations.

The judge said the randomness of how Demapan selected his alleged victim, the allegations that he befriended the victim, got her intoxicated to diminish her resistance, and when the victim's companions stepped away to go to the restroom, he took her to a secluded area and proceeded to sexually assault her point at his being a danger.

"The randomness of how the victim was selected [and] the cold and calculated means in which the defendant waited for his opportunity to commit the crime goes to the dangerousness of the defendant," Camacho said.

He said the weight of the evidence goes to the alleged victim's ability to identify the defendant, as well as the security guard who heard her scream, saw her naked except her bra, and the defendant in the process of pulling up his pants.

"The court is convinced that there is no condition or combination of conditions that can ensure the defendant's compliance" when the court orders Demapan to obey all CNMI laws and not commit other crimes as part of any pre-trial release. "At this time, the court will decline to modify the current bail," Camacho said.

Police said the alleged rape occurred in the bushes north of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio at 2am last Friday, July 26.

Demapan and the 27-year-old tourist were allegedly drinking beverages with some companions at a bar at PIC prior to the incident. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 2, 2005

'CUC staging blackouts'
Governor consultant and former senator Ramon "Kumoi" S. Guerrero accused the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Babauta administration yesterday of staging the rolling blackouts and broken power engines to push for privatization. "Personally, I believe it [privatization] is the reason," said Guerrero to a question posed by Vice Speaker Timothy P. Villagomez during yesterday's hearing. Villagomez who chairs the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, held a hearing yesterday to receive Guerrero's report on the government's power privatization program. At the same time, Guerrero, who was paid $7,000 a month since May by the CUC to rehabilitate Power Plant 2 and review the Power Plant I privatization, said that he actually does not support privatization. He was hired at the recommendation of Gov. Juan N. Babauta.

CHC mammography department gets 3-year accreditation
The American College of Radiology recently awarded the Commonwealth Health Center's Mammography Department a three-year accreditation. Department of Public Health deputy secretary of hospital administration Joaquin I. Taitano said that, after a comprehensive, lengthy and expensive application process involving every aspect of the CHC mammography program, the accrediting arm of the ACR has again recognized the CNMI's mammography facility for its "achievement of high practice standards" in this important diagnostic imaging modality. ACR, said Taitano, has granted the mammography program accreditation until October 2008.

August 2, 2006

US CPA exam soon available in CNMI
The CNMI has become the latest jurisdiction of the United States that will be able to administer the U.S. CPA exam. The CNMI Board of Accountancy has issued a Request for Proposals for a company to establish and run a computer-based testing center for the U.S. CPA examinations. The exam qualifies a person to become a Certified Public Accountant. According to James N. Whitt, chairman of the CNMI Board of Accountancy, the board is pleased to take this important step to finally bring the CPA exam to the islands. "It will be much more convenient for our candidates to take the exam at home instead of having to travel to Guam or Hawaii or the U.S. mainland to take this exam," said Whitt. The board hopes that this new development will encourage more local residents to pursue a career in accounting.

Sumitomo makes $25M investment in PTI
Sumitomo Corp. has subscribed to newly issued shares of Pacific Telecom Inc., the main telecommunications operator in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and a significant operator in the island of Guam. This investment translates into a 25 percent share in the new capital of the company. The Delgado family will retain management and did not sell any of its shares as part of this transaction.

August 2, 2007

Govt revenue down to '94 level
Instead of moving forward, the CNMI government's fiscal condition has greatly deteriorated and its revenue has actually gone backwards to as far back as 13 years ago. Government statistics show that in fiscal year 1994, the CNMI government generated $153 million in revenues. Currently, the Department of Finance projects to generate only over $160 million. This severe depletion in government income-blamed on the rapid decline of the garment industry and weakened tourism due to terminated flights-has resulted in the government limiting its spending to just $163.5 million this fiscal year, a huge drop of nearly $50 million from the $213 million authorization about two years ago.

Saipan casino petition meets certification requirement
The Saipan casino initiative has met the required number of signatures and will be put on the ballot in this year's mid-term elections. "You have satisfied the constitutional requirement of valid signatures representing 20 percent of the electorate for senatorial district three (Saipan)," said deputy attorney general Gregory Baka in an e-mail Monday to CNMI Indigenous Entrepreneurs officers Pedro R. Guerrero and Felicidad Ogumoro. "The AG will definitely be certifying the Saipan Casino Act to appear on the November ballot this year," Baka added.

Yvette Bennett exceeds fundraising target

Fourteen people answered the call to donate money and it more than exceeded Saipan-born Yvette Bennett's target of $495 by Aug. 2, 2013, to help her participation in this year's Miss Idaho USA pageant.

According to the online fundraising website GoFundMe, Bennett, the daughter of former teacher representative Ambrose and his wife Lillian, has already raised $655 in 28 days.

And with two days to go before her Aug. 2 deadline to reach her close to $500 target, the younger Bennett can pretty much say mission accomplished in the first phase of her fundraising goal to raise $3,000 to effectively take part in the 2013 Miss Idaho USA pageant.

Bennett

Bennett, the 2013 Miss Idaho International who finished in the Top 15 and won the spirit award in last month's 2013 Miss USA International pageant in Florida, thanked everyone for donating, which included a couple of $100 donations (Sigmond Williams, Maylynn Babauta, and DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce).

Other who donated between $5 and $50 include Joe Deleon Guerrero, Remylyn Mafnas, "Favorite Brother" Teregeyo, Alvaro Santos, Alexis Cabrera, Loremel Hocog, Ambrose Bennett, Ray and Velma, Sharon, and one anonymous donor.

Those who wish to donate more funds for Yvette Bennett's candidacy in the 2014 Miss Idaho USA pageant can do so by visiting her gofundme.com website at www.gofundme.com/yvettedlgb. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Search suspended for man overboard near Christmas Island

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center suspended Wednesday the search for a 40-year-old man who reportedly fell overboard from a fishing vessel near Christmas Island Sunday.

The man overboard was the master of the 163-foot South Korean-flagged fishing vessel *Panalo*x. *Panalox*, and its sister vessel, *Shin Yung*, began searching after discovering Sunday that the man was missing. They later notified the Korean Coast Guard, who contacted the U.S. Coast Guard Monday.

The U.S. Coast Guard was notified 27 hours after the man reportedly fell overboard. Initial reports from the Korean Coast Guard stated incorrect coordinates, directing efforts toward a search area near Guam. As Coast Guard personnel prepared their response, the Korean Coast Guard corrected the coordinates and the search area was found to be 305 miles northwest of Christmas Island.

Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules aircraft crews conducted searches Tuesday and Wednesday covering approximately 1,690 square miles.

Two other fishing vessels assisted with the search Tuesday and throughout Tuesday night, but suspended their roles in the search by Wednesday morning.

On-scene conditions: waves at 6 feet, 12 mile-per-hour winds with visibility at 8 miles.

"We offer our thoughts and prayers to the family during this difficult time," said Lt. Cmdr. Pete Zauner, command duty officer at JRCC. "Suspending a search is never an easy decision and is only made after we have exhausted search efforts." ***(USCG)***

NMC to host free info session

Individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend a free information session hosted by the Northern Marianas College on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013.

The information session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus.

College faculty, staff, and students from different degree programs and other educational programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions will be on hand to provide helpful information and answer questions.

The college will also be accepting admissions application for the fall 2013 semester at the information session. The deadline for submitting applications was originally on July 31, but the college is making an exception for those who attend and submit their application at the information session.

Those who attend the information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2013 semester. This represents a savings of about $75.

The Northern Marianas College offers several degree programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information session or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6768 or email admissions coordinator Lisa Rafael at lisa.rafael@marianas.edu or visit

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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
AMENDED

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the supply and delivery of Automotive Diesel Oil for its use at the Saipan International Airport/Seaport.

The information, scope of work and other considerations of the proposal is available beginning June 24, 2013 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Interest proposers must submit one original and two copies of the sealed proposal. The sealed proposals must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., August 16, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director on the aforementioned location.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ Maryann Q. Lizama
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Smoking: The menthol debate misses the point

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Friday, July 26:*

In 2009, a new law authorized the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to regulate cigarettes and reduce their terrible toll on the nation's health. Even though less than 20 percent of adult Americans smoke, it's still the No. 1 cause of preventable death. But the law set up a basic conflict: On the one hand, it established a regulatory regimen designed to make smoking more dislikable and distasteful. On the other, it clung to the basic tenet that smoking is a personal choice adults should be allowed to make for themselves.

No wonder that just about every attempt to regulate the contents and marketing of cigarettes runs into troubling contradictions. Take the recent scuffle over the FDA's requirement that tobacco companies put graphic warning labels on cigarette packs, including images of diseased lungs and rotting mouths. Such labels might discourage young people from smoking—most new smokers are minors—but a judge ruled against requiring them, saying they were a violation of the companies' free speech rights. In effect, cigarettes would have become the only legal product whose manufacturers would be required not just to provide informational warnings, as they already must do, but to aggressively advertise against themselves on their own packages.

Now the FDA is turning its attention to menthol, and it is running into similar complications. The minty flavoring doesn't make cigarettes more likely to cause disease or death, but it masks the harshness of the smoke, which makes developing a smoking habit easier. It may also make cigarettes somewhat more addictive by acting on the same brain receptors that respond to nicotine. Anti-smoking groups have called on the FDA to ban the flavoring.

Far more science is needed. But even if the addiction theory proves true, a menthol ban would only tinker around the edges of smoking's dangers while reducing the options of adult smokers who prefer a particular kind of cigarette. The big problem with cigarettes isn't menthol or the design of the packaging; it's smoking, period. If the government is going to allow tobacco companies to sell cigarettes, what's the logic of requiring them to make cigarettes taste worse?

Maybe it's time for this country to reopen the tough, underlying debate of whether cigarettes should be banned outright. Perhaps the costs and dangers outweigh the importance of personal liberty and individual choice. But if it's determined that adults do have the right to make this potentially deadly personal decision, regulation should be limited to three main missions: consumer information, such as government-sponsored anti-smoking campaigns and better labeling on cigarette packs that include ingredients and health warnings; protecting minors with crackdowns on marketing and sales targeted to them; and protecting the rights of nonsmokers by banning smoking in places where secondhand smoke can harm others.

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OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA
YOU'RE RIGHT, HILLARY, HIS SEXTING THOSE WOMEN WAS BAD ENOUGH... BUT THIS? THIS IS HEXTING!!
Anthony Weiner
CLINTON 2016

An august bug

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

If you are in the middle of a meal, you might want to skip this article until later. We are sick. Diarrhea would be the local term but the CDC came up with a fancy name lately to call what seems to have gotten some 300 persons in 10 states sick: Cyclospora infection or cyclosporiasis. Hey, I am that sick. I can use all these crazy terms the doctors can come up with, couldn't I?

I thought it was just the adrenaline ebb after our marathon return from Sichuan so I dutifully took a day rest. It was the hour-on-the-hour trip to the WC (now I know why the Brits call the toilet "water closet") to expel fluid that gave me the clue. We have the bug.

On to the BRAT diet—bananas, rice, apple, toast—but it would not stay down, so we made sure our fluids and electrolytes are adequate. My practitioner friend from the Bay Area counseled Pepsi and Seven-Up. We bravely navigated the 11 floors choosing to take the stairs (not a smart choice given our condition) to the school supermart for our electrolyte replacements. I've shied away from these sugared-water poisons for a long time so I must confess, the taste buds were pleasantly surprised. But just to be sure, we kept the salt and potassium litter handy.

It is uncanny that I should be having this condition when CDC is baffled by the disease's gastroenteritis qualities but definitely not your common household diarrhea. CDC usually checks the international travel of patients to make sure they had not picked up the bug while munching on a luscious apple or peach that might have picked up bacteria in the farm.

It is not surprising that we got ours. Fruit was abundant on the train and at every fruit stand in the station platform. Much as we watched the hygiene of our intake (vendors washed fruits by filling the plastic bag of fruits with cold water, swirl it a few times, and then drain it), the wily bugs managed to wriggle themselves into our chomp.

Now, you really did not think I was just going to blabber about diarrhea, do you? But wait, we have the itch to be clinical.

First, our body temperature went ballistic. The body aches were all over, including a buzz in the head that would not stop. Not a surprise, but when we automatically expelled sputum in the bathroom, the phlegm that came out was really vile—black and bitter. I did not know where it came from since I had not had food intake for a couple of days; the bathroom runs had been constant, but this one almost tempted me to save it as a lab specimen, put it in a slide, and thoroughly examine it under the microscope. Or, send it in a test tube to CDC.

As is our custom, we turn contemplative in moments like this. The novelist Carlos Castaneda once wrote that when one allows death to roost like a bird on one's shoulder, it heightens alertness about life. Something about this illness is existentially driving us to the limits of our existence, and consequently, to our possibilities as well.

We started our 69th year of existence yesterday. It is the start of the fifth phase of my life's journey, parceled every 17 years, meant to be my gracious and grateful passage unto death. There has not been anything gracious about our belching and dry throat today, and we definitely do not feel very grateful. I've never been at the throes of dying as much as I am today, yet, at the same time I had never felt so alive.

I do not recall a Mephistophelean scythe in the covenants I entered into, although, lawdy lawd, some of the daredevil stunts we've pulled off could only have been done with the collusion of the devil, but that's neither here nor there. Right now, we are just a bit balmy in the scalp, the palm, and the chest, sweating like a hog let loose at the French Quarters in summer New Orleans, or a German shepherd twice removed from being a wolf baying at an August moon running a chill down our spine. Three-fingers of sour mash whiskey from a bayou moonshiner would settle down the nerves since the local *moutai* is not exactly our cup of tea.

It dawned on us that we are not sick at all. It is our body going through a rite of purification, to discard toxic elements that have lodge themselves too comfortably in the tummy and elsewhere, harbingers of death and dying, and the old body has enough selfhood to say, "not yet!" It is as if the internal rotor blade of the body is doing a sweeping reconnaissance of nooks and crannies of the old booty, cleansing the physique of lard and cholesterol to let a young Ahnold Schwarzenegger emerge!

Meanwhile, we can have CDC take its cyclosporiasis back. We are joining the wolf baying at the moon to remind ourselves there is still a lot of life in this old coot yet, and having the old bird of mortality sitting on our shoulder to remind us of our finitude is just fine. The acute cutting edge of alertness familiar to survivors of cancer and those facing severe physical challenges is with us, and for the consciousness of it all, we are thankful.

Yeah, the runs are still with us, but now, we are doing the running rather than the runs running us. That is a hell of a difference.

Monolingual?

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

For those of you intrigued by the notion of exotic foreign tongues I'll point out an item of interest. Don't worry, this time around the item isn't my own travails in Mandarin. No, the gig at hand today is from the U.S. mainland. An article in the July 28 edition of *Time* magazine, "The Power of the Bilingual Brain," scribed by Jeffrey Kluger, highlights some virtues of language education, particularly for the younger set, whose flexible brains are apparently wired better for language acquisition.

An alert reader brought the article to my attention. I'm not the only gray hair in the world who has struggled with learning Mandarin, wondering why the language studies in my youth seemed so much easier than the head-against-wall experience of my silver years.

The *Time* article highlights some goings-on at the Morningside Elementary School, which is at the forefront of a Utah program that starts language immersion training in grade school. When they say immersion, they're not kidding. *Time* says that the students in the program will study half of their school subjects in their new language; the languages offered are French, Spanish, Mandarin, and, soon, Portuguese.

The article mentions some studies that indicate that learning a new language is beneficial to the brain.

But that's not the last word on brains, only the first. *Time* goes on to mention some brain physiology, and how younger, more pliant brains really are able to absorb new languages quicker than older, less pliant brains. That's not just conceptual, it's physical, a function of how brain connections get pared back in age, which actually make the brain more efficient in some ways, but apparently not more effective at picking up new languages.

"Multilingualism is a lifetime skill—but you'd better start learning it early," it says.

I like this article, and I recommend it, because it provides some insights into language acquisition and has some depth to it. That's a welcome change from the bromides we often encounter, usually in business circles, which are often glib, cheerleading clichés about "today's global world" and how everyone is going to be a polyglot just because it seems like a warm fuzzy idea.

Now I'll open the cooler next to my beach chair, and ponder how I've seen things develop in this realm. You can, as always, pull up a chair next to me. I don't have any grand point here, I'm just shooting the breeze a bit, looking at the dots and wondering how they can be connected.

When I was in school we could study any language we wanted, as long as it was German, French, or Spanish. And we started late for that, sixth or seventh grade, as I recall, and it was hardly immersion, but just 50 minutes a day.

My parents spoke French as a second language, so that was the natural choice for. But I was a "B" student in all my courses, because I don't care about grammar in any language, not even my native tongue. My parents gave me an ear for French, though, which is a lot more important for actual street-level communications than pedantic grammar rules are.

After that, however, at UCLA, it was obvious from my academic competition that Asia was the rising star. Yet it didn't cross my mind, even for a second, to consider taking up an Asian language.

So while I did see the future, I was deaf to it.

Later on, in corporate life, Japan was eating Uncle Sam's lunch in auto building and electronics manufacturing. It became fashionable in American business circles to start parroting Japanese phrases. It was a pop-management trend. Every American yes-man in a power tie fancied himself an expert in the ways of the samurai, wielding an attaché case instead of a sword.

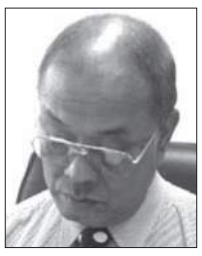
That fad, like all fads, faded out just like it had faded in. Though there may have been exceptions, Americans weren't generally emulating Japanese competence; they were merely emulating each other. The only American managers I knew who actually studied Japanese were friends I later made on Saipan, and all of them were

See MONOLINGUAL on Page 14

Recalibrating paradigms

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Over the last 35 years, we've had our share of ups and downs in our collective effort to build and strengthen the foundation of self-government.

Though we've inched our way forward second-guessing the future (due to lack of an economic blueprint), we braved the turbulent sea of change and the challenges it presents. The landscape is uneven on most fronts. It's one difficult terrain to tread.

Retirement Fund: The program needs major reform that includes pension ceiling at $50,000 while reworking all pensions so it is determined strictly on base salary. Participation in the defined contribution plan should be mandatory for all government employees. It's the only way to restore the severed corresponding contribution.

The DB plan is history. It's the DC plan and employees seeking refund that is now on the table. Upon major strides attained to reform the Fund they may opt to reinvest their money in the DC plan. This is the missing link (corresponding contribution) that feeds the Fund so retirees get paid their bimonthly pension. In fact, DC membership should be made mandatory for all public sector employees, similar to that of the U.S. Social Security System.

An estimate of contributions should be calculated and those who can't pay up their share upon retirement must place land as collateral. Upon paying off contribution, the property is returned to the member.

Pass a good percentage of responsibility on pension contribution and health insurance to members. All recipients and beneficiaries who never contributed into the Fund must be eliminated forthwith.

Unfortunately, both DB and DC members are casualties of shortsightedness in laws pushed by the administration and approved by the Legislature. The repeal of "corresponding contributions," money deducted from active members used to pay retirees, brought the Fund to its knees. If there's no infusion of new money from active members and employer's contributions from the government, did policymakers expect miracles as the new scaffold?

This as policymakers engaged in esoteric debates finding suspect Holy Grails they call solutions that would only replace debts of the Fund with fresh debts. It forces the young generation to pay for it. It's woefully shortsighted and ludicrous for, again, failing to resolve the most vital issue of "corresponding contribution."

Debts owed the CNMI: Tinian Dynasty owes taxes, interests, and penalties to the CNMI government. We must not waive any of these and not when we face a sturdy march into fiscal meltdown. We should also participate in the audit of Dynasty. The Office of the Public Auditor must dispatch high caliber auditors to partake in this probe. Whatever is collected must be remitted to the Fund while experts work on major reform.

Repeal QC: The CNMI government is basically in serious fiscal straits. It needs taxes to pay for basic services and mounting deficits. It is logical that we repeal the qualifying certificate to let investors pitch into the coffers of the local government. There's no such thing as free lunch and this is one single time when there's none on our shelves anywhere in government. Must repeal this regressive policy!

Pension obligation bond: Governments deal with taxes to meet obligations, but when it begins borrowing for this purpose, it's a sure path to eventually replicate the path of Detroit City. Why chance borrowing $40 million when the annual payout to retirees is $65 million?

Borrowing for purposes of paying off liabilities with the Fund isn't the answer. It only partially addresses payment owed the Fund to the tune of $371 million. The loan fails to address and resolve the dire need for what's known as "corresponding contribution," money deducted from active members that in turn is used to pay retirees. Am I making sense?

Policy doldrums: All key players should be invited to an initial planning session to review policy doldrums that have proven regressive for current and future investments. The final product should be a fully thought-out socio-economic plan or blueprint to follow and refine as we move forward. Myopic view isn't the paradigm either. It must be a long-term view of our journey in the initial years of this century.

Healthcare: There's a certain concept wrapped in a plan to beef up the local hospital beyond conventional wisdom. Like a hermit crab that eases in and out of its shell, the plan has done the same, though most haven't seen it for one reason or another. But it should

See RECALIBRATING on Page 14

Tinian: The Little Engine That Couldn't

By PHILLIP MENDIOLA-LONG
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Phillip Mendiola-Long is president of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce and is president and managing director of www.ShermanPacific.com.

We've all heard or read about the famous childhood story called the *The Little Engine That Could*. Those infamous words "I think I can…I think I can…I think I can" can be recognized and repeated by most children around the world. As most of us remember, the moral of the story is that a person can do anything they put their mind to. Essentially instilling in young readers that continued effort, work, and belief in your success will inevitably lead to the very success you wish for.

Oh, how we all yearn that we can go back to those early years so that we can still believe those proverbial words: "I think I can…I think I can…I think I can." If only it were that easy today; say the words and then…poof…you did it, you succeeded. What fairy tales and children's stories often leave out is that in the *real* world, there are often malicious people or dark interests that will do everything in their power to ensure that you fail. No matter how hard you work or how much you believe that you will succeed those evil people and self-interests will conspire to ensure your doom. Ever heard of the "crabs in a bucket" mentality? We have made it a national pastime here in the Marianas.

Case in point: Tinian's gaming industry.

Tinian, understanding its role as the "little brother" in the CNMI family, created its very own gaming industry in 1990. Later in 1998, after refining the laws and entertaining several failed fly-by-night investors, Tinian opened the first casino resort in the CNMI, the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. To date, the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is the largest hotel in the CNMI with nearly 600 employees and 427 rooms.

Even with the "I think I can" attitude, Tinian's gaming industry struggled to survive and continues to struggle today. Why? Well, because certain nefarious interests on Saipan want gaming to be legalized on Saipan. You see, those evil interests need Tinian's and Rota's gaming industries to fail in order to convince Saipan residents that gaming on Saipan is their only hope of economic rescue. Ask yourself these questions: What has the government done to get direct flights to Tinian? *(The runway was completed in 2003)* How much advertising do you see on Saipan regarding Tinian's gaming industry? *(Do Saipan tourists even know there is a casino just 8 minute away?)* Look at CNMI government websites; where do they promote gaming on Tinian? How much of MVA's budget is used to promote gaming on Tinian? How often does the Legislature, the Senate or the governor discuss how to improve Tinian's gaming industry? The answer to all these questions is zilch, nada, zippo, not at all, essentially turning a blind eye to the potential of increased business gross receipts tax, increased excise taxes, increased employee withholding taxes, increased wharfage fees, increased passenger facility charges, increased aircraft landing fees and, the biggest of all, increased interisland trade and commerce between Tinian and Saipan.

The problem is not that Tinian doesn't have the "I think I can" attitude. It is that Tinian is not aware that it isn't even the *engine* in *The Little Engine That Could* story. No matter how many times a simple train car or caboose yells out those words "I think I can…I think I can," that train car or caboose won't get up that hill without the engine to pull it there. Folks, Saipan "is" that engine and unfortunately that engine doesn't want to bring Tinian "up that hill."

Some will say that it is Tinian's responsibility to advertise, promote, and market its gaming industry and to a point, yes, it is true. Tinian should invest heavily in advertising and marketing its own gaming industry. However, Saipan residents should understand that Tinian can't do it alone. It isn't that engine in the story yet; it is only a caboose. So if Tinian's gaming industry is going to be a success and get up that fabled hill, then it will need Saipan's engine to do it.

Let's hope that someone on Saipan "gets it" and finally gets behind the engine and finally drives Tinian up that hill.

I think I can…I think I can…hopefully in the end the entire CNMI will be then saying, "I knew we could…I knew we could…I knew we could."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the morning, then isolated showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon.
▲87° ▼77°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲88° ▼77°

MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°

TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°

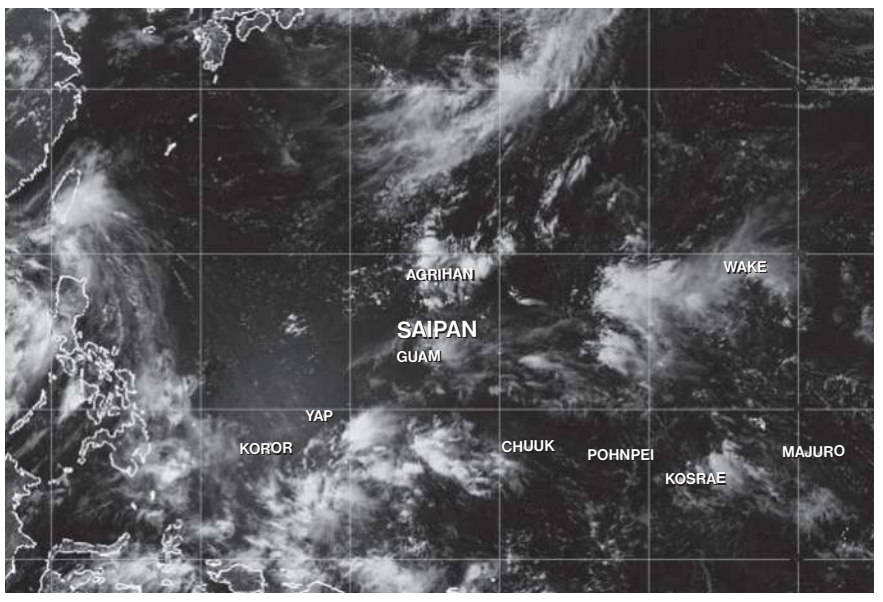
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲62	▼56
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼74
London	Showers	▲83	▼61
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲77	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼68
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼74
Paris	Sunny	▲91	▼64
Pusan	Windy	▲85	▼77
Rome	Sunny	▲92	▼73
Salem	Showers	▲81	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼54
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 11N130E through a circulation centered southeast of Yap to end at EQ147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 4N130E to 7N144E. An upper-level trough heads southwestward from 25N160E through lows centered southeast of Wake Island near 23N157E and north of Yap at 12N139E to end at 8N132E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are taking place east of Yap but south of Guam within 100 miles of a line from 8N141E to 7N150E over the Marianas within 175 miles of a line from 13N146E to 21N147E and over Wake Island within 175 miles of a line from 16N159E to 18N168E. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Kwajalein and Majuro within 120 miles of a line from 5N165E to 2N173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:56 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:57 AM	3:07 PM
Saturday	2:44 AM	3:54 PM
Sunday	3:33 AM	4:40 PM
Monday	4:22 AM	5:24 PM
Tuesday	5:11 AM	6:06 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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2013 BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPECIAL

SCS, Inc. giving away Asus MeMO Pad

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Looking for a laptop or desktop for your child this upcoming school year? Stop looking and stop by at Saipan Computer Services, Inc. and get a free tablet computer to boot.

That's right, the South Garapan computer and services company is giving away a brand new Asus MeMO Pad with any purchase of a laptop or desktop system. It's all part of its 2013 Back-To-School Special, which runs from now until Aug. 31.

CONTACT INFO
Tel: 234-9110

Saipan Computer Services carries a wide selection of brand name laptops and desktops like Acer, Asus, Apple, HP, Lenovo, Sony, and Toshiba. So parents who want to equip their kids with the newest technology for learning need not go far or shop online.

SCS's Business Development director Jerry Tiu said his company puts a premium on children's learning, hence this promotion to give away an Asus MeMO Pad for every purchase of a laptop or desktop computer.

"You not only get a computer, you also get a mobile tablet for all your and the kids' mobile computing needs. It's hitting two birds with one stone in our promotion," he said.

The Asus MeMO Pad, Tiu said, comes equipped with a 7-inch Backlit Capacitive TouchScreen display, 16GB Flash storage expandable to 32GB, high-definition camera, 1 gigahertz CPU, Wi-Fi connectivity, and an Android operating system with access to over 600,000 apps.

He said that computers, whether laptops, desktop computers, or tablets, have become an indispensable tool for learning and that's one of the reasons why Saipan Computer Services has been stocking up with the technology lately.

With school opening just around the corner—August for private schools and September for public schools—Tiu said today is as good as any to take advantage of this promo.

Aside from the Asus MeMO Pad offer, Saipan Computer Services' 2013 Back-To-School School Special is also giving

See SCS on Page 14

MARK RABAGO
Saipan Computer Services, Inc. is giving away a brand new Asus MeMO Pad with any purchase of a laptop or desktop system. Photo shows, from left, Saipan Computer Services staff Mary Grace S. Delos Santos, Bryan Joseph H. Fabre, and Lisa Marcelo Gomez displaying the tablet.

SAIPAN COMPUTER SERVICES, Inc.
COMPUTER SALES, NETWORKING & SERVICES
SCS
IDEAL SIGNS CUSTOM SIGNS & BANNERS
Back to school
Aug 1 - 31, 2013

MARK RABAGO
Saipan Computer Services, Inc.'s 2013 Back-To-School Special runs from now to Aug. 31.

SCS Saipan Computer Services is on SALE!

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MONOLINGUAL

From Page 11

entrepreneurs.

Which brings us to contemporary times. China is now the topic of discussion in America's corporate circles, with a small inventory of clichés being recycled and amplified in the echo chamber.

But if Mandarin is to ever make greater inroads into the U.S., it won't be the middle-aged managers who swing the balance. They follow the trends; they don't make them. Exceptions here? Some, maybe, but they only prove the rule. Risk-aversion, not risk-taking, is how one keeps one's job, since those who rock the boat make everybody else uncomfortable.

That's what I've seen in the workforce, which is a different context addressed in the *Time* magazine article I mentioned. Will the newer generations, or those who were immersed in early language studies, change the overall picture? It will be a long time before we know.

In the meantime, my ossified old brain will just have to plod along, step by step, while the youngsters run circles around me.

RECALIBRATING

From Page 11

do the CNMI a whale of good when it is presented, reviewed and accepted by all key players. Who says we have to endure the usual in unusual times?

Core of our problems

At the center of our disoriented paradigm is the decision by leadership to veer off wealth creation, shifting to the new time-honored convenience of "debt creation."

Well, we've eaten all the lowest fruits on the tree, wary there's nothing left. Strangely, though, we're still convinced it would blossom with more fruits like instant soba. Woe! Isn't this supposed to be seasonal?

Before the CNMI could ably pay off its cumulative deficit of $740 million, it must corral local business experts and key players to begin an urgent plan revolving around "wealth and jobs creation."

Stopping the paralyzing effects of deficits could only happen if and when we allow private industries to create it. Anything short of this commitment translates into perpetuating failed fiscal policies. It means a quick review and repeal of policies that are hindrances to luring more investments.

It also pays to explore Japan's investment venture, scooping up assets in Southeast Asia in the billions of dollars. Could we persuade our friends from the Land of the Rising Sun to come back home? Shouldn't we be doing the same with South Korea, Thailand, and China? It deals with "wealth creation," doesn't it?

SCS

From Page 13

away a free camera case and memory card to anyone who buys a Canon, Panasonic, Samsung, or Sony digital camera.

There is also a 20-percent discount on selected printers, tablets, routers, backup batteries, and a wide range of accessories.

Saipan Computer Services has been in business on-island since 1987 when it first opened at the old Nauru Building (now Marianas Business Plaza). Back then, the company's primary business was selling distributed processing by its mainframe systems.

By 1994 it had already transferred to the Family Building in Garapan and also transformed into a computer retail and repair and services company.

Saipan Computer Services moved to its present location along Beach Road across the 13 Fishermen Monument in 2000. The entire ground floor is home to its computer sales, technical services, and its newest division, Ideal Signs. Saipan Computer Services continues to live by its company slogan "Service Beyond the Sale."

For more information about Saipan Computer's 2013 Back-To-School School Special, call 234-9110.

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Documentation fees and registration not included.

KIA
The Power to Surprise

NMC hosts fall 2013 student orientations

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting student orientations for the upcoming fall 2013 semester starting on Monday, Aug. 5, 2013.

The student orientations are hosted to assist new students and returning students (those who did not take courses at NMC previous semester, Spring or Summer), learn more about various educational programs, services and resources available at the college.

The orientations will provide students the opportunity to meet NMC staff, faculty, and other students before the start of the fall semester. NMC will be hosting student orientations on the following dates:

■ **Aug. 5:** Student orientation for new international students (9:30am, NMC Student Center in Building J)

■ **Aug. 7:** Student orientation for new and returning students (9am-11:30am, Room D-1)

■ **Aug. 8:** Student orientation for new and returning students (5pm-7:30pm, Room D-1)

Participation in a student orientation is a requirement for enrollment. New or returning students who do not attend a student orientation will not be able to register for courses during the week of fall 2013 registration, which begins on Monday, Aug. 12, 2013.

Students will need to confirm which student orientation they will be attending by contacting the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 6772/6769. Those unable to attend any of the scheduled student orientations will also need to contact the Office of Admissions and Records.

For more information about student orientations or the fall 2013 semester, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at 234-5498 Ext 6768, or visit www.marianas.edu.

In addition, new students who are planning to register for online and/or hybrid courses this semester are highly encouraged to also attend an NMC online orientation. These orientations are designed to better prepare those who are new to taking online or hybrid courses at NMC. Note the following dates below:

■ **Aug. 12:** Orientation for online students on Rota (1pm, NMC Rota instructional site's VTC Room)

■ **Aug. 13:** Orientation for online students on Tinian (1pm, NMC Tinian instructional site's Room D)

■ **Aug. 14:** Orientation for online students on Saipan (1pm, Room W-2)

■ **Aug. 15:** Orientation for online students on Saipan (9am, 1pm or 5pm, Room W-2)

Attendance at these orientations does not exempt the mandatory attendance for all courses on the first day of class time and location as listed on the fall 2013 class schedule. For more information about the NMC online orientations or online courses at NMC, contact Amanda Allen, Director of Distance Learning Education, at 234-5498 Ext. 6722. ***(NMC)***

Updates on mobile consular outreach

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam will be conducting a mobile consular outreach on Saipan on Aug. 7-9, 2013, at the Dai-Dai Social Hall of the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Susupe.

Also, the consulate said that the schedule for biometrics capturing of the pre-processed passport applications is already available.

To avoid delays in the processing of applications, applicants are advised not to fold copies of the original scanned requirements that were sent to the Philippine Consulate General in advance.

All ePassport applications require personal appearance. Applicants should wear proper attire with collar.

Due to limited time slot, applicants on the list are advised to be present at the venue on the time and date indicated in the schedule. Time slot of no-show applicants will be cancelled and walk-in applicants will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis. ***(PR)***

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COURTESY CALL

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, center left, and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, center right, pose with officers and crewmembers of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Assateague*, a 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Apra Harbor, Guam. The cutter and its crew recently visited the CNMI and did a beach cleanup on Tinian on Thursday, July 25. A total of 17 crewmembers traveled from Guam for the beach cleanup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:006 T 18	**SAN JOSE VILLAGE TINIAN**	**MINIMUM BID :**	**$**	**56,219.36**
LOT NO.:006 T 201	**SAN JOSE VILALGE, TINAIN**	**MINIMUM BID :**	**$**	**56,044.39**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on August 26, 2013, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for each property shall be $(please see above).
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Master card). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
8. Lease with Option to Purchase. NMHC gives notice that it will also consider bids or offers to lease the property, subject to the following additional terms and conditions:
   a. The Lease Price bid shall not be less than the listed Minimum Bid price.
   b. An up-front payment of ten percent (10%) of the Lease Price must be paid upon award by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Master card).
   c. The balance of the Lease Price shall accrue interest at six percent (6%) per annum.
   d. Monthly payments of the Lease will be considered rental payments only and not installments toward purchase and shall not grant the lessee any equity or ownership interest in the property or be construed in any way to encumber NMHC's rights, title and interest in the property beyond the granting of a lease for a specific term of years.
   e. Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be thirty (30) years.
   f. A lease agreement will be given upon receipt of the up-front payment and shall include:
      i. No alterations or improvements without the prior written consent of NMHC.
      ii. Lessee to insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
      iii. Lessee responsible for all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
      iv. Lease not to be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of NMHC.
      v. Failure to make a monthly payment grounds for termination and eviction.
      vi. Lease may, at the request of lessee, contain an Option to Purchase provision exercisable upon: (A) payment in full of the Lease Price; (B) the Lease not having been declared to be in default; and (C) payment of $100.00 option consideration. If the option is properly exercised, a quitclaim deed will be given.
   g. In the event of competing lease bids, greater weight will be given to the leasehold offer with the better price, shorter term and larger monthly payments.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2013

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, CPA-SA-002-13**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Contractors are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-002-13"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013**, to the Office of the Acting Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, ~~**10:00 AM, FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013**~~, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ FRANCES C. MAFNAS
Acting Chair of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: July 25, 2013

Couple's violent fight lands them in the slammer

A couple was arrested for allegedly beating each other with a wooden broom and an umbrella at their house in China Town Tuesday morning.

Keone C. Macaranas was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, while Leeandra Sablan Macaranas was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $10,000 cash bail for Keone C. Macaranas. Leeandra Sablan Macaranas was allowed to post $1,000 cash and $9,000 in unsecured bond.

Assistant public defender Eden Schwartz was appointed as counsel for Leeandra Sablan Macaranas. A private counsel will be appointed for Keone C. Macaranas.

Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 6 at 1:30pm.

In Keone C. Macaranas' case, police detective Steven N. Dela Cruz stated in his report that the altercation between the two occurred on Tuesday at 10am, when Leeandra Macaranas told her husband to cook rice.

While cooking, Keone C. Macaranas allegedly kept saying profanities at his wife. When he started cleaning the living room, he allegedly flipped the couch and grabbed a cell phone from her. The two then allegedly started throwing things at each other. Keone C. Macaranas allegedly hit her on the back with a wooden broom. He also allegedly tried to hit her with a metal chair but she managed to grab it from him.

Keone C. Macaranas' sister joined the fray when she allegedly slapped Leeandra Macaranas in the face.

In Leeandra Macaranas' case, police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that, according to the husband, their argument started while he was cleaning the house and she kept shouting profanities at him.

Getting tired of her mouth, he said he walked out from the house. She, however, followed him and allegedly hit him with a broom, umbrella, and a chair. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man arrested for alleged possession of bullets, pot

Police arrested a 40-year-old man in Garapan on Wednesday for alleged possession of five bullets and dried leaves that are believed to be marijuana.

Barry Lloyd Lizama was taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of manufacturing, sale or possession of ammunitions and dangerous devices.

His bail was set at $5,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 7 at 9am.

It was learned that Lizama has a pending bench warrant issued by Presiding Judge Robert Naraja for failing to appear for arraignment in a traffic case on Feb. 23, 2012. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho quashed the warrant and ordered Lizama to answer the traffic case at a hearing.

Police detective Jeffrey I. Norita stated in his report that patrol officer John Mendiola was passing the Retirement Fund building on Capital Hill on July 4 at 10:28pm when he noticed a pickup truck parked on the eastern grassy parking lot with its headlights turned off and brake lights activated.

When the officer made a U-turn, the truck's headlights turned on and the vehicle pulled out from the lot. The officer used a flashlight to signal the vehicle to stop. The truck stopped and the driver identified himself as Lizama.

Three more officers arrived and did a search of the truck where they allegedly found a Ziplock plastic bag that contained suspected marijuana and five live bullets.

Norita said that in his interview with Lizama at the Department of Corrections the following day, Lizama admitted owning the drug paraphernalia, the bag containing marijuana, and the bullets.

Lizama was later released but was served with an arrest warrant Wednesday afternoon. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, M.P. 96950 • Tel. 664-2587 • Fax. 664-2571

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is hereby announcing its intention to submit its Abbreviated State Plan for Fiscal Year 2014. In addition to the fourteen (14) assurances which the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are mandated to comply with, and the Program Integrity Assessment in order to receive the grant, we are also required to report on the progress, accomplishments, and problems that we have encountered within the last couple of years of the program. The LIHEAP Program generally provides cooling/utility/power assistance to eligible low-income households.

We are notifying affected individuals, specifically those who are qualified low-income, elderly, and/or disabled, other interested individuals, and the general public who may be interested in participating in the development of this plan to please contact Mrs. Gregoria O. Sablan and Mr. Frank Iglecias, the LIHEAP Staff at the DCCA LIHEAP's Office at telephone numbers 664-2568 or 664-2569. For more information and inquiry, please call the said telephone numbers, or visit our Office located at Capitol Hill House#1341.

Community meetings will be conducted on Rota, Tinian and Saipan as scheduled below. Any and all interested individuals are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Dipåttamenton Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA), Progråman Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) ginen este ha anununsia I intension-ña na para u rinueba iyon-niha Abbreviated State Plan para I Fiscal Year 2014. Komu ma'aomenta hålum i katotsi (14) gi Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Marianas put para u ma'otdin para i kinimpli ni, yan I Program Integrity Assessment anai siña para u marisibi I salåppi', ya manmadimånda han lokkui' para u maripot todu I adilåntu, kinemplidu yan prublema siha ni ma'ekspirensia gi halum I manma'pus na såkkan I prugråma. I LIHEAP na progråma heneråtmente ha pribininiyi (cooling/kåndet) na klasen ayudo para ayu siha na familia I man takpapa suetdon-niha.

In nutitisia ayu siha na petson I man inafefekta espesiåtmente para ayo I man kuålifikao na man åmko, yan/man inutit, yan pumalu siha na indibiduåt ni man interesao, yan I pupbliku heneråt komu man interesao man pattisiapao gi man plånun este na inadulånta para u ma'ågang Siñora Gregoria O. Sablan yan Siñot Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff, gi DCCA ofisinan gi este siha na numirun tilifon 664-2568 pat 664-2569.

Para u guaha siha inekungok publiku para ufan ma kondukta giya Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Todu eyu siha man interesao na petsona man masosohyu para u ma'atiende este siha na inekungok.

Para mås infotmasion pat finaisen, pot fabot ågang I tilifon siha ni ma'mensiona pat bisita I ofisinå-ta giya Capital Hill, Numiron I gima #1341.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

Dipattamentool Lemelemil Sóóbw me Kko (Community me Cultural Affairs - DC&CA), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) sángi milleel nge ekke arongaar toulap igha ekke mángiiy bwe ebwe fféérú seféliiy yaar State Plan reel ráágh ye 2014. E pwal aschuuschu ngáli milikkewe seigh me faawu (14) ikka re akkulééw ngáli Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands reel igha ebwe mmwelil bweibwogh selaapi, me kkemalul programma, nge e bwal allégh ngáli ghamam bwe aybwe fféér ripood reel meeta kka e ghatch, weires ikka e ghal yoor fitoowula ráágh mwir igha eyoorota progróóma yeel. Mille LIHEAP nge e ayoora alillis reel apatapat/dengkki me alillis ngaliir schookka eghi sossol abwossuur.

Aykke arongaar schookka re toolong llol alillis yeel ikka eghi sossol abwossuur, tuufey/ikka rese bwang, me ikka re mwuschal fengal me toulap ikka re tipali bwe rebwe toolong llol progrooma yeel bwe rebwe ffaingiir Ilimwár Gregoria O. Sablan me Sóumwár Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff reel numurool tilifoon kka 664-2568 ngare 664-2569 me ngáre tooto llól Bwulasiyo iye elo Capitol Hill house #1341.

Ebwe yoor arongorong ngáliir toulap wóól Luuta, Tchúlúyól me Seipél. Aramas ye e tipáli nge rekke tingór ngáliir bwe rebwe tooto llól iyéélágh kkaal.

/s/ Laura T. Ogumoro
Secretary, DCCA

Date: 07/23/2013

Venue	Scheduled Dates	Time
Tinian-Tinian Gymnasium	August 02, 2013	6:00 pm
Rota-Rota Roundhouse	August 09, 2013	6:00 pm
Saipan-Multi Purpose Center	August 16, 2013	6:00 pm

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
August 1, 2013

Pursuant to Public Law 18-12, Section 3, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), propose to issue Pension Obligation Bonds, the proceeds of which shall be used by the Government of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), to fund the payment of the Commonwealth Government's obligation to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund. CDA is an autonomous agency that has the statutory authority under CNMI Public Law 4-49, to issue pension obligation bonds in the CNMI.

CDA is requesting proposals from qualified firms to serve as its bond underwriter for the proposed financing. Proposals shall be submitted to:

Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149
Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: administration@cda.gov.mp

no later than 4:00 p.m., September 3, 2013 Chamorro Standard Time (ChST). Copies of the RFP package may be obtained from the CDA office, CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan. Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director at telephone nos. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245, ext. 311. The CDA reserves the right to reject any proposal that in its sole determination is not in the best interest of the CNMI Government.

/s/ Pedro I. Itibus
Chairman, Board of Directors

MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

Opening Week Schedule

Monday, August 5
6:00-7:00 pm
Parent/Guardian Orientation*
High School Building

Tuesday, August 6
6:00-7:00 pm
Parent/Guardian Orientation*
High School Building
**Parents/guardians need only attend one session.*

Thursday, August 8
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
7:30 am Report to Homeroom
8:00-9:00 am Opening Mass
9:30-11:00 am Student Orientation
3:00 pm Dismissal

Friday, August 9
Regular Classes
7:30 am-3:00 pm

Slots still open!
Call 234-6184.

JOIN THE LEGACY
BECOME A KNIGHT

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-022

SALARY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified consultant or consulting firm to review and revise the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's current Salary Administration Program (SAP), including the development of a performance management rating and payment system.

The RFP package and the scope-of-work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **August 8, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-022, Salary Administration Program", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 27, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **August 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Frankie Cepeda, CUC Human Resource Manager via email frankie.cepeda@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Call for scientific presentations

The Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management, or APASEEM, is calling for presentations for its upcoming annual meeting. APASEEM has also launched its new website, www.apaseem.org.

APASEEM targets to use the week before Thanksgiving for the presentations conference. The tentative date(s) scheduled is Tuesday, Nov. 19, and if needed, also Wednesday, Nov. 20, and Thursday, Nov. 21, with the initial meeting to run from 3:30pm to 6:30pm. As in the past, the event will be held at the American Memorial Park auditorium, which seats up to 112 people.

All interested science and environmental professionals—and teachers and students of these disciplines—are encouraged to develop a 15- to 20-minute presentation on an aspect of their recent work that may be of interest to the CNMI's science, science education, and environmental management community.

To get scheduled on the meetings' agenda, contact any APASEEM officer. An abstract of one's topic will help organizers to better advertise the conference.

APASEEM also continues with its membership drive. The group mostly operates due to membership fees and contributions.

"If you've been thinking about becoming a dues-paying active member, or if your affiliation or agency is able to do so, please encourage this and please join. A reminder: most of us remember to pay at or around the date of our annual conference and that fees for professional organizations are tax deductible. Remember, speakers get half off on annual fees if they've presented sometime during the previous year. Group rates are available for any organization, public or private. Potential new members and/or potential group officers are highly encouraged to make contact with us," the group said in a statement.

Contact APASEEM president Ken Kramer via ken_kramer0886@yahoo.com; vice president Michael Trianni via mtrianni@ymail.com; secretary Andre Kozij via akaspn@hotmail.com; or treasurer John Fureyvia jfurey@saipan.com to get on this year's conference schedule. The organization also now has a Gmail account for general correspondence, apaseem@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Water outage today in As Lito, Fina Sisu, As Perdido

Residents of As Lito, Fina Sisu and As Perdido will experience a nine-hour water outage today, Aug. 2, 2013, from 8 am to 5pm, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, GPPC Inc., to make the connection to the existing waterline on Chalan Tun Antonio Apa Road near the Northern Marianas College and at the Chalan Msgr. Martinez intersection by the Shell Dandan gas station. This project is part of the San Vicente service area extension project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The water outage will affect residents living on Chalan Tun Antonio Apa Rd. and residents in Fina Sisu, As Lito, and As Perdido. CUC encourages its customers to call the CUC Call Center at (670) 235-0282 or 235-2282 if you have any complaints about having no water or low pressure water as GPPC Inc. transfers CUC's existing customers from the old 8-inch ACP waterline to the new 12-inch PVC C900-07 waterline.

Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites. One-lane closures are to be expected on Airport Rd. as GPPC Inc. begins the construction work for road restoration. ***(CUC)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-024

TANK # 103, 120 & ISO TANKS CLEANING AT CUC POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Tank Nos. 103, 120 & ISO Tank Cleaning at CUC Power Plant, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The "CUC" or "Corporation" currently operates multiple diesel engine generators at its Power Plant Nos. 1 and No. 2, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI. The CUC is soliciting proposals from experienced contractors or specialist firms experienced in the cleaning of fuel storage tanks up to 1 M USG capacity.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Work plan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 Integrity Inspection Program. The Power Plants 1 and 2 are located at the Lower Base Industrial Area near Saipan seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). It is the corporations' desire to undertake cleaning of the Bulk tank # 103, as soon the new tank #102 under construction is commissioned:

The work shall be done in two phases:
- **Phase 1 - Tank #103 (840,000 gal.)**
- **Phase 2 – Miscellaneous tanks – Tank # 120 (20,000 gal.) & ISO tanks, 2 ea. – 6,350 gal.**

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit, will be held on **August 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant No. 1 Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"TANK # 103, 120 & ISO TANKS CLEANING AT CUC POWER PLANT 1, SAIPAN",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 29, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged CUC and US EPA. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **August 13, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Power Generation Acting TMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-025

TANK 103 OUT OF SERVICE (API 653) INSPECTION AT POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced engineering and certified specialist firms for the out of service inspection and integrity testing of the above ground oil storage tank (AST) # 103 and connected pipeline within the secondary containment at CUC Power Plant No. 1 in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Work plan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 Integrity Inspection Program. The Power Plants 1 and 2 are located at the Lower Base Industrial Area near Saipan seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The inspection is expected to be in two phases:
1. ***Out of service pre-repair inspection after tank cleaning, and***
2. ***Final tank inspection after performing the necessary repairs based on the scope of work developed during Phase 1.***

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit, will be held on **August 13, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant No. 1 Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"TANK 103 OUT OF SERVICE (API 653) INSPECTION AT POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged CUC and US EPA. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **August 14, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Power Generation Acting TMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

USP4GG also bats for removal of 5-year CW status

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aside from the inclusion of undocumented aliens in the CNMI in the comprehensive immigration bill now pending at the U.S. House of Representatives, the US Pinoys for Good Governance is also calling for the scrapping of the five-year waiting period as eligibility requirement for permanent resident status or green card application.

The five-year CW status for those who have been legally working in the CNMI since May 8, 2003, is one of the components of Section 2109 of S. 744, the comprehensive immigration bill the U.S. Senate passed on June 27.

"There will be a lot of uncertainties with this CW five-year requirement. Employment renewal is totally under the employer's discretion… [and] can lead to much abuse and all kinds of insecurities for workers. Thus, we are respectfully proposing to delete this provision," states the petition letter addressed to U.S. House Speaker John Boener (R-IL) that is currently being circulated.

USP4GG also wants the U.S. House to grant lawful permanent resident status for alien workers, with or without U.S. citizen children of any age, who have been working legally in the CNMI on or before May 8, 2008, five years prior to the signing of the comprehensive immigration reform bill into law.

The petition also asks the U.S. House to include undocumented aliens in the CNMI among the estimated 11 million undocumented aliens in the U.S. mainland who will have a pathway to citizenship under the immigration bill earlier passed by the Senate.

US4GG said that most undocumented aliens in the CNMI arrived legally as foreign contract workers and have worked long years, some for more than 20 years. The closure of 34 garment factories in the CNMI in 2009 resulted in the loss of employment for these workers, leading to a loss of lawful status.

"Fixing the immigration problems of undocumented immigrants and documented alien workers in the CNMI need to be addressed to do a comprehensive fix on our nation's broken immigration system—as [the] CNMI is inevitably a part of the United States. If the undocumented immigrants, other alien workers and their families are permanently legalized and allowed an opportunity to become U.S. citizens, they can contribute much to the CNMI as well as to the entire United States with their talents, skills, and hard work. Not to provide them the same opportunities to legalize as those similarly situated in the mainland when in fact they are all inside U.S. territory is not only unfair but a classic disrespect for equal protection of the law principles," the petition further reads.

The petition also said if undocumented aliens in the CNMI are not included in the immigration bill, not only will the Commonwealth not benefit from their valuable contributions, the U.S. also will have to go to much "trouble and expense of looking for them, arresting them, interrogating them, detaining them and subjecting them to lengthy removal proceedings in Immigration Court where decisions are subject to various appeals."

"Why be cruel and non-humanitarian to them when in fact and in reality they are assets to the CNMI and the U.S.?" the USP4GG petition asks.

Minimum wage exclusion

USP4GG president Rodel Rodis, meanwhile, said the exclusion of CNMI undocumented aliens in the comprehensive immigration bill harkens back to the time when the islands were also excluded from the U.S. minimum wage law.

"The exclusion of the people of Saipan from receiving any benefits from the proposed U.S. comprehensive immigration reform bill is reminiscent of the effort 18 years ago to exclude the people of Saipan from receiving the benefits of the U.S. minimum wage law. The CNMI is a U.S. commonwealth, not a colony where the people are treated differently. The derivative of 'commonwealth' is common well-being."

Rodis said that was a time when the vested interests of the CNMI paid a great deal of money to corrupt lobbyists in Washington, D.C. like Jack Abramoff to work to ensure the CNMI was not covered by the U.S. minimum wage law so that local wages would remain artificially low.

"The same interests want to keep undocumented immigrants in CNMI in the shadows, living in fear and willing to accept the lowest jobs in the most abject work and living conditions because they have no choice. If they are able to legalize their status, they would be entitled to better wages and better working conditions, which the vested interests oppose," he added.

500 signatures

The signature campaign opposing the non-inclusion of undocumented aliens in the CNMI and calling for the removal of the five-year CW status for those eligible for improved status so far has 500 signatures as of Wednesday, July 31, according to USP4GG Marianas Chapter chair Dr. Celia Lamkin.

She said USP4GG's informal immigration forum continues this weekend at the Minatchom Atdao Pavillion from 9am to 7pm on Saturday, Aug. 3, and from 1pm to 4pm on Sunday, Aug. 4.

In addition, USP4GG volunteer Gerry Malit will be present following the Sunday Mass at Mt. Carmel Church at around 12pm to accommodate those willing to support their petition to the U.S. House of Representatives.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-JKPL/INTERNSHIP-157

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOHN OLIVER GONZALES
LIBRARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE OF THE AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND AT PORT OF SAIPAN.
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-011-13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) invites written sealed proposals from qualified air-conditioning and refrigeration firms to provide full Preventive Maintenance Service of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and at Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The term of the preventive maintenance services shall be for two (2) years. CPA at its sole option may extend the services for an additional two (2) years.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning August 2, 2013 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The Proposal Package includes the Scope of Services and other considerations upon payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) to be paid at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the RFP. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and at Port of Saipan, Project No. CPA-RFP-011-13."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. LOCAL TIME, August 29, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMEND FUND, Plaintiff,	**CIVIL ACTION NO.: 13-0111**
vs.	**SUMMONS**
NICOLAS MAREHAM NEKAI and BERNADITA MANGLONA ATALIG Defendants.	

TO : BERNADITA MANGLONA ATALIG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

DATED, this 1st day of August, 2013.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT 1st Publication

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ezeth Smith Petitioner,	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0305**
vs	
Calvin Smith, Respondent,	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 10005 PMB 207 Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

DATED, this 3rd day of July, 2013:

/s/Clerk of Court

Joseph A. Arriola
P.O. Box 10003 PMB 632
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 483-0207

Pro Se Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JOSEPH ALDAN ARRIOLA, Petitioner,	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0311**
vs.	**SUMMONS**
JOVIE A. CERVEZA, Respondent.	

TO: RESPONDENT JOVIE. A CERVEZA

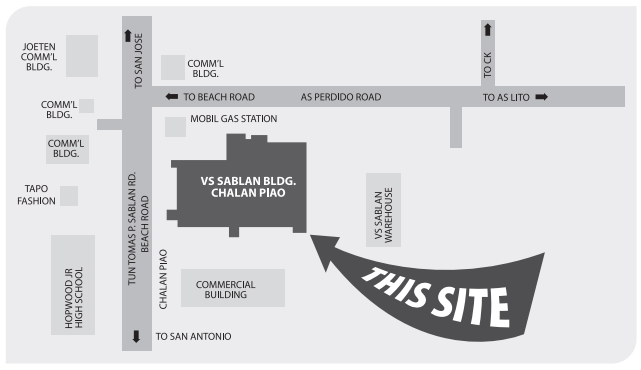
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint for Divorce, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Petitioner Joseph A. Arriola, whose address is P.O. Box 10003 PMB 632, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated this 2nd day of July, 2013.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Sablan Enterprises, Inc
***dba* SABLAN REALTY**



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Business

US economy may need continued support from Fed

WASHINGTON (AP)—A key government report and a statement from the Federal Reserve made clear Wednesday that the U.S. economy still needs help.

The economy grew at a lackluster 1.7 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, the Commerce Department said. That was better than a revised 1.1 percent rate for the first quarter but still far too sluggish to quickly reduce unemployment.

The Fed's statement suggested it's too early to signal a pullback in its $85 billion a month in Treasury and mortgage bond purchases. The bond purchases have been intended to keep long-term interest rates down to spur borrowing and spending and invigorate the economy.

In a statement after a policy meeting, Fed policymakers slightly downgraded their assessment of the economy. They also noted that mortgage rates, which have helped drive home sales, have risen from record lows.

And the Fed noted that inflation has remained consistently below its 2 percent target and is still a potential threat to the economy. Continued stimulus by the central bank could lead to higher inflation.

Some economists said they thought the Fed was now less likely to start scaling back its bond buying in September, when many analysts have said it would probably do so.

December may now be a more likely time for the Fed to taper its purchases—if the economy shows consistent gains in the second half of the year.

"This is a step back from taper talk, though not the final word," said Paul Edelstein, an economist at IHS Global Insight.

The Fed, like many private economists, expects growth to accelerate later this year. Job gains have been steady, and auto and home sales strong. The economic drag from federal spending cuts that kicked in this year is also expected to ease.

"We continue to anticipate a meaningful acceleration in the economy in the back half of the year," said Joseph LaVorgna, an economist at Deutsche Bank.

A key indicator will come Thursday, when the Institute for Supply Management issues its U.S. manufacturing index for July. Manufacturing appears to be rebounding after slumping earlier this year.

The Fed will pay even closer attention to the employment report for July, which will be issued Friday. It's expected to show that employers added a solid 183,000 jobs. The unemployment rate is forecast to dip to a still-high 7.5 percent from 7.6 percent.

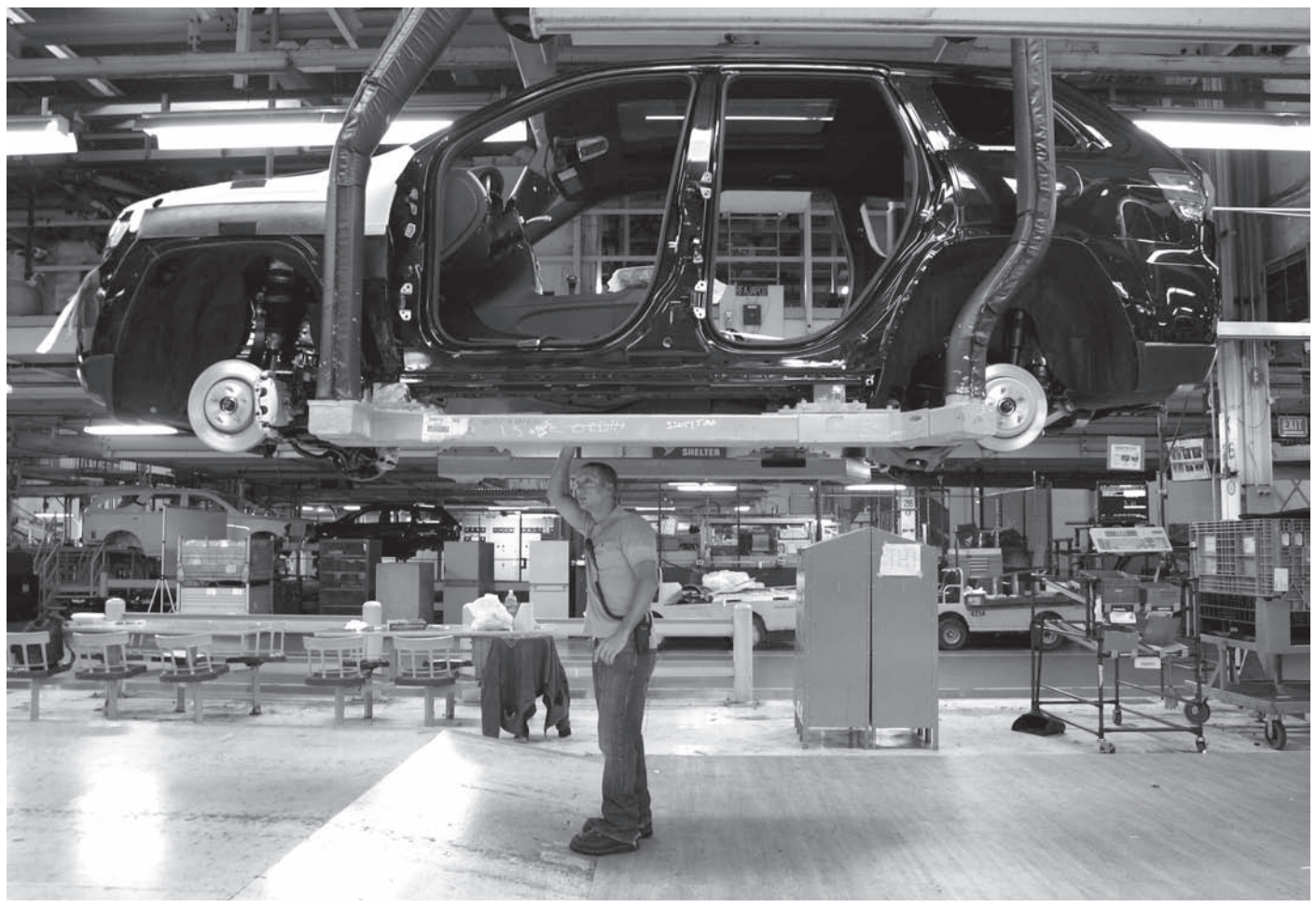
Despite the economy's tepid showing in the April-June quarter, it's now improved for two straight quarters as measured by the growth in the U.S. gross domestic product, or GDP.

Consumer spending rose at a 1.8 percent annual rate last quarter, less than in the previous quarter. That's a sign that tax increases that kicked in this year have led some Americans to cut back. Consumer spending makes up about 70 percent of the economy.

Still, the rise in consumer spending last quarter was better than most economists had expected, and it showed that many people have remained resilient.

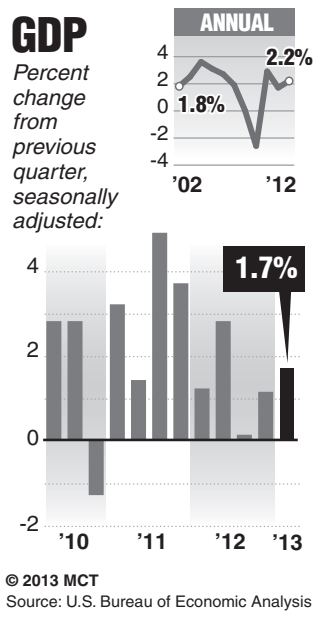
Robust auto sales signal that Americans are more confident about their finances, economists say. Sales of vehicles topped 7.8 million in the first six months of 2013, the best first-half total since 2007. Analysts say sales should remain solid for the rest of the year.

That is "a very nice indication of consumers' willingness to go out and make big-ticket purchases," said Peter D'Antonio, an economist at Citigroup.



AP

In this Wednesday, May 8, 2013, file photo, Jeff Caldwell, 29, right, a chassis assembly line supervisor, checks a vehicle on the assembly line at the Chrysler Jefferson North Assembly plant in Detroit.



© 2013 MCT
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Optimism of whites in US lags blacks by big margin

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans' attitudes about their economic future are sharply divided by race, with whites significantly less likely than blacks or Hispanics to think they can improve their own standard of living. Indeed, optimism among minorities now outpaces that of whites by the widest margin since at least 1987, a new analysis shows.

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research analysis shows that after years of economic attitudes among whites, blacks and Hispanics following similar patterns, whites' confidence in their economic future has plummeted in the last decade. Blacks and Hispanics, meanwhile, have sustained high levels of optimism despite being hit hard in the recent recession.

The findings come as President Barack Obama, the first African-American president, seeks to promote a broad message of economic opportunity amid a rising gap between rich and poor. The AP reported this week that 4 out of 5 U.S. adults have struggled with joblessness, near poverty or reliance on welfare for at least part of their lives, with white pessimism about their economic future at a 25-year high. More than 40 percent of the poor are white.

The AP-NORC analysis of data from the General Social Survey, a long-running biannual survey conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, found just 46 percent of whites say their family has a good chance of improving their living standard given the way things are in America, the lowest level in surveys conducted since 1987. In contrast, 71 percent of blacks and 73 percent of Hispanics express optimism of an improved life—the biggest gap with whites since the survey began asking.

Blacks and Hispanics diverged sharply from whites on this question following Obama's election in 2008. Economic optimism among nonwhites rose, while whites' optimism declined.

Blacks' hopefulness isn't limited to the future; they also express a positive outlook on their current financial standing.

For the first time since 1972, the share of blacks who reported that their financial situation had improved in the last few years surpassed that of whites. The tip occurred in 2010, when the percentage of whites reporting an improvement to their financial situation fell to 24 percent vs. 30 percent for blacks.

"In the minority community, as perceptions of discrimination lessen a bit with the election of an African-American president, people see a greater ability to succeed," said Mark Mellman, a veteran Democratic consultant who closely tracks voter sentiment. "Many working-class whites, on the other hand, see dwindling opportunities as manufacturing and other jobs that once enabled them to get ahead just aren't available."

The hopeful include John Harris III, 23, of Washington, D.C., a recent graduate of historically black Howard University who now works to reduce homelessness through the AmeriCorps program. Part of the first generation of college students who saw Obama get elected, Harris says he and many fellow black graduates in their 20s and 30s are now motivated to excel and help people of all races who are in need.

"It has something to do with the way that African-Americans as a whole think in our country," said Harris, describing the newfound sense of optimism amid an increasing number of people who serve as black role models. "We feel more independent. We feel like we're worth more, because we see it every day on the TV, hear it on the radio and are beginning to see it more in our communities."

The AP-NORC analysis also finds that, based on a separate measure of optimism—one that tracked the percentage of people who believe the country is moving in the right direction—blacks' optimism since Obama's election was on average 39 percentage points higher than whites' assessment of the country's direction. That represents a reversal from earlier in the decade, when white optimism exceeded that of blacks by an average 18 percentage points.

Halliburton to plead guilty in Gulf oil spill

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A federal judge has scheduled a hearing on Sept. 19 for Halliburton Energy Services to plead guilty to destroying evidence after BP's 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The company was arraigned Wednesday in New Orleans on a misdemeanor charge. Although company attorneys entered a plea of not guilty during the arraignment, Halliburton has agreed to plead guilty to one count of destruction of evidence in a deal with the Justice Department.

Halliburton also has agreed to pay the statutory maximum fine of $200,000, be on probation for three years and to cooperate with the government's criminal investigation.

The deal is subject to the approval of U.S. District Judge Jane Triche Milazzo, who will preside over the September hearing.

Halliburton was BP's cement contractor on the drilling rig that exploded, triggering an explosion that killed 11 workers and spilled millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf.

Halliburton won't face any other criminal charges in connection with the case, though individual employees could still be charged. The Justice Department agreed not to prosecute the company for any other conduct related to the April 2010 blowout of BP's Macondo well. The explosion killed 11 workers aboard the Deepwater Horizon rig.

Halliburton also agreed to make a $55 million contribution to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, but the payment wasn't a condition of the plea deal.

The destruction of evidence involved a post-spill review of the cement job on BP's well.

The cementing technology director allegedly instructed the program manager to delete the results. A different Halliburton employee also deleted data from a separate round of simulations that reached a similar conclusion, according to the Justice Department.

Nation

With 3 'hops,' NSA gets millions of phone records

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's national security team acknowledged for the first time Wednesday that, when investigating one suspected terrorist, it can read and store the phone records of millions of Americans.

Since it was revealed recently that the National Security Agency puts the phone records of every American into a database, the Obama administration has assured the nation that such records are rarely searched and, when they are, officials target only suspected international terrorists.

Meanwhile, at a hacker convention in Las Vegas on Wednesday, the head of the NSA said government methods used to collect telephone and email data helped foil 54 terror plots—a figure that drew open skepticism from lawmakers back in Washington. "Not by any stretch can you get 54 terrorist plots," said the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

More than a decade after the terror attacks of 2001, the phone-record surveillance program has stirred deep privacy concerns on Capitol Hill, where Leahy said Wednesday during an oversight hearing: "If this program is not effective, it has to end," adding that, "So far I'm not convinced by what I've seen."

In the House earlier this month, lawmakers said they never intended to allow the NSA to build a database of every phone call in America, and they threatened to curtail the government's surveillance authority. "You've got a problem," Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., told top intelligence officials weeks ago.

Sensing a looming shift in the privacy-versus-security cultural calculus, the White House responded: It has ordered the director of national intelligence to recommend changes that could be made to the phone-surveillance program, and President Barack Obama invited a bipartisan group of lawmakers to the White House on Thursday to discuss their concerns about the National Security Agency's surveillance programs.

A White House official says the top Democrats and Republicans on the House and Senate intelligence panels will attend. So will Democratic Sens. Mark Udall of Colorado and Ron Wyden of Oregon, two lawmakers who raised the alarm about the NSA's sweeping domestic programs. Two others calling for more NSA oversight, Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois and Sensenbrenner, will also attend.

The administration has emphasized what it describes as oversight of its activities by the secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, by congressional committees and by internal auditors. It has said, for example, that under rules approved by the court, only 22 people at NSA were allowed to approve searches of the phone database, and only seven positions at NSA, a total of 11 people, were authorized to disclose any results believed to be associated with persons in the United States.

Testimony before Congress on Wednesday showed how easy it is for Americans with no connection to terrorism to unwittingly have their calling patterns analyzed by the government.

It hinges on what's known as "hop" or "chain" analysis. When the NSA identifies a suspect, it can look not just at his phone records, but also the records of everyone he calls, everyone who calls those people and everyone who calls those people.

If the average person called 40 unique people, three-hop analysis would allow the government to mine the records of 2.5 million Americans when investigating one suspected terrorist.

The NSA has said it conducted 300 searches of its telephone database last year. Left unsaid until Wednesday was that three-hop analysis off those searches could mean scrutinizing the phone records of tens or even hundreds of millions of people.

Has government gone too far?

A majority of Americans think the government's anti-terrorism program to collect information from phone calls, emails and Internet activity has gone too far and there should be limits to protect privacy, according to a new McClatchy-Marist poll.

• How President Obama is handling homeland security and anti-terrorism

Approve 53%
Disapprove 38
Unsure: 9%

• Your impression of national security consultant Edward Snowden, who released classified information to the media

Favorable 20
Unfavorable 55
Unsure/never heard of 25

• The government's anti-terrorism program that collects information on people's phone calls, etc. became public when national security consultant Edward Snowden released classified information to the media; Snowden is:

A traitor 38
A whistleblower 49
Unsure: 13%

• Your opinion on the government's policy to collect information on people's phone calls, emails and Internet activity as part of its anti-terrorism efforts

Something that is needed 34
Government has gone too far 56
Unsure: 9%

• Should people assume their phone calls, etc. are being tracked as part of life in digital age or should there be regulations to limit what is tracked to protect privacy

Part of life in the digital age 26
Regulations to protect privacy 70
Unsure: 4%

• Your opinion on a government rule to avoid future information leaks: federal workers must track activities of colleagues or face harsh penalties, including possible criminal charges

A necessary step 30
Goes too far 60
Unsure: 9%

Source: McClatchy-Marist poll of 1,204 adults, July 15-18, 2013; margin of error: +/-2.8 percentage points; 980 registered voters; MOE: +/-3.1 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2013 MCT

Nuptials at midnight as gay marriage hits Minn.

AP

Brook Mattila, left and Heidi Engstad both of Duluth Minn. talk with John Goldfine about the wedding ceremony that is going to take place at Tycoons in Duluth at 12:01 a.m. Thursday Aug. 1, 2013. The two have dated for over two years and are going to be among the first same-sex couples married by a legal ceremony in the state of Minnesota.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Dozens of Minnesota gay couples made last-minute preparations Wednesday for midnight marriages, determined to exchange vows at the earliest possible moment under a new state law legalizing same-sex marriage.

Weddings were scheduled to start at the stroke of midnight at Minneapolis City Hall, St. Paul's Como Park, Mall of America's Chapel of Love and at county courthouses around the state. One group planned a cluster of weddings in a Duluth tavern.

"I don't think either of us ever thought we'd see this day," said Mike Bolin, of the Minneapolis suburb of Richfield, who was marrying Jay Resch, his partner of six years, at Minneapolis City Hall. "We met at low points in both of our lives, and to have arrived at this point—there's going to be a lot of tears."

Rhode Island was joining Minnesota on Thursday in becoming the 12th and 13th U.S. states to allow gay marriage, along with the District of Columbia. The national gay rights group Freedom to Marry estimates that about 30 percent of the U.S. population now lives in places where gay marriage is legal. The first gay weddings in Rhode Island were planned for later Thursday morning.

In Minnesota, budget officials assessing the impact of the law estimated that about 5,000 gay couples would marry in the first year. Its enactment capped a fast turnabout on the issue in just over two years. After voters rejected a constitutional ban on gay marriage last fall, the state Legislature this spring moved to make it legal.

Rhode Island becomes the last New England state to allow same-sex marriage. Lawmakers in the heavily Catholic state passed the marriage law this spring, after more than 16 years of efforts by same-sex marriage supporters. Both Minnesota and Rhode Island will automatically recognize marriages performed in other states.

Bolin and Resch celebrated Wednesday night with several hundred others at Wilde Roast Cafe along the Mississippi River north of downtown Minneapolis. Many at the event planned to walk to City Hall for the mass nuptials.

Dayton proclaimed Aug. 1 to be "Freedom to Marry Day" in Minnesota. The governor was to be on hand at Minneapolis City Hall for the ceremonies starting at midnight, where Mayor R.T. Rybak planned to perform 42 marriages by 6 a.m.

Prosecutor: Kidnapped Ohio women kept diaries

CLEVELAND (AP)—Three women held captive in a rundown home for a decade kept diaries documenting the horrific physical and sexual abuse they suffered on a daily basis, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The women's kidnapper, Ariel Castro, lured one of them into his Cleveland home with the promise of a puppy for her son and later locked all of them in a vehicle in his garage for three days when someone visited him, prosecutors said. Castro, a former school bus driver, claimed he didn't have an exit strategy from his complicated double life and finally gave the women a chance to escape by leaving a door unlocked, they said in a court document.

Castro

One of the women broke free in May and called for help, frantically telling an emergency dispatcher, "I've been kidnapped, and I've been missing for 10 years, and I'm, I'm here. I'm free now."

Castro has pleaded guilty to 937 counts, including kidnapping, rape, assault and aggravated murder. He's being sentenced Thursday.

Cuyahoga County prosecutor Tim McGinty said in a sentencing memorandum filed Wednesday that Castro, who chained his captives by their ankles and fed them only one meal a day, "admits his disgusting and inhuman conduct" but "remains remorseless for his actions." The memorandum says many of the charges in Castro's indictment reflect conduct documented by one of the women in her diary.

In the memorandum, prosecutors describe the horrific conditions the women endured at Castro's hands. The women's diaries, they say, "document abuse and life as a captive."

"The entries speak of forced sexual conduct, of being locked in a dark room, of anticipating the next session of abuse, of the dreams of someday escaping and being reunited with family, of being chained to a wall, of being held like a prisoner of war," the memorandum says.

When Castro was arrested, his attorneys said evidence would show he wasn't a monster. The county prosecutor says the facts he'll present Thursday at Castro's sentencing, at which Castro faces life in prison plus 1,000 years, will prove the lawyers wrong.

"You'll make the same logical judgment when you see the facts," McGinty said last week after Castro pleaded guilty. "You have not seen the evidence yet."

The legal team representing the women's interests declined to comment on whether they would testify or send statements to the court. Castro's defense team had no immediate comment Wednesday.

The women disappeared separately between 2002 and 2004, when they were 14, 16 and 20 years old.

Many horrific details of the women's ordeal had already emerged, with one woman forced to wear a motorcycle helmet while chained in the basement and, after she tried to escape, having a vacuum cord wrapped around her neck.

Origin of salad-linked outbreak remains a mystery

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—Nearly 400 people across the country have been sickened by cyclospora, a lengthy intestinal illness usually contracted by eating contaminated food. But if you're looking to find out exactly where it came from, you may be out of luck.

Federal officials warned Wednesday that it was too early to say whether the outbreak of the rare parasite reported in at least 15 states was over.

Health officials in Nebraska and Iowa say they've traced cases there to prepackaged salad. They haven't revealed the company that packaged the salad or where it was sold, explaining only that most if not all of it wasn't grown locally.

The lack of information has fueled concern from consumers and food safety advocates who argue that companies should be held accountable when outbreaks happen and customers need the information about where outbreaks came from to make smart food choices.

"If you want the free market to work properly, then you need to let people have the information they need to make informed decisions," said Bill Marler, a Seattle attorney who specializes in class-action food-safety lawsuits.

Mark Hutson, who owns a Save-Mart grocery story in Lincoln, Neb., said he was unaware of customers who had raised concern about the product, which was unusual in situations involving foodborne illnesses. But Hutson said the lack of specific brand information threatened to hurt all providers, including the good actors that did nothing wrong.

"I think there was so little information as to what was causing the problem, that people just weren't sure what to do," he said. "Frankly, we would prefer to have the names out there."

Authorities said they still hadn't determined whether the cases of cyclospora in the different states are connected.

"It's too early to say for sure whether it's over, and thus too early to say there's no risk of still getting sick," said María-Belén Moran, spokeswoman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Only Iowa and Nebraska officials had directly linked the outbreak in their states to a salad mix of iceberg and romaine lettuce, carrots and red cabbage.

Heath authorities in California, which provides much of the nation's leafy green produce, said Wednesday the state had not received any reports of cyclospora cases.

"Based on the most currently available information, the leafy greens being implicated in this outbreak were not grown or processed in California," added spokesman Corey Egel in a statement to the Associated Press.

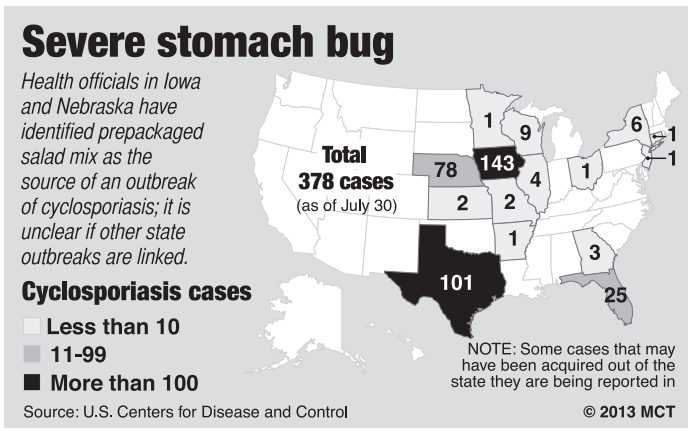
Still, grocery shoppers far from known outbreak areas acknowledged it was a factor as they shopped for produce.

"I can't say I really want to go and buy particularly any lettuce right now," said Laura Flanagan, 35, who was shopping at a Whole Foods in Dallas with her two young children. "I'm being pretty cautious about it."

The product was widely distributed in Iowa by wholesalers who could have supplied the bagged salad mix to all types of food establishments, including restaurants and grocery stores, said Iowa Food and Consumer Safety Bureau chief Steven Mandernach.

Mandernach said at least 80 percent of the vegetables were grown and processed outside both Iowa and Nebraska. He said officials haven't confirmed the origins of 20 percent and may never know because victims can't always remember what they ate.

Iowa law allows public health officials to withhold the identities of any person or business affected by an outbreak. However, business names can be released to the public if the state epidemiologist or public health director determines that disclosing the information is needed to protect public safety.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, CPA-TA-001-13**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Contractors are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Tinian International Airport, CPA-TA-001-13",* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013**, to the Office of the Acting Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2013,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ FRANCES C. MAFNAS Date: July 25, 2013
Acting Chair of the Board/Contracting Officer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA / ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, CPA-RA-002-13**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Contractors are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona / Rota International Airport, CPA-RA-002-13",* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013,** to the Office of the Acting Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

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All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications.

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A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2013,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

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The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

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Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

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The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ FRANCES C. MAFNAS Date: July 23, 2013
Acting Chair of the Board/Contracting Officer

Asia

UN: As US draws down, Afghan casualty toll is up

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's civilian casualty toll has jumped this year as insurgents fight to recapture territory from the departing American-led coalition, a U.N. report showed on Wednesday.

The number of dead rose 14 percent, and wounded 28 percent, compared with January-June last year, UNAMA, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan, said in its mid-year report.

It blamed the insurgency for 74 percent of the casualties, while the Taliban defended itself by claiming they were mostly legitimate targets because they were working for its enemy, the Western-backed government.

Civilian casualties had dropped following U.S. President Barack Obama's 30,000-troop surge. But UNAMA's latest report cited an intensifying Taliban campaign to recapture lost ground as the coalition, which is preparing to complete its withdrawal by the end of 2014, hands over security responsibilities to a rebuilt Afghan military and police force.

UNAMA said it counted 1,319 civilian deaths and 2,533 wounded from January to June, compared with 1,158 deaths and 1,976 wounded in the first six months of 2012..

It said most were caused by homemade bombs and mines on or near roads. Nine percent were attributed to the Afghan security forces and U.S.-led international military coalition, and 12 percent to ground engagements between pro-government forces and insurgents. The rest were either unattributed or caused by old explosive charges.

Many died in ground engagements in the east and south where the U.S. launched its 2009 surge to roll back the insurgents' significant gains.

The renewed fighting "presents an increasing risk to Afghan children, women and men," said Georgette Gagnon, head of human rights for UNAMA.

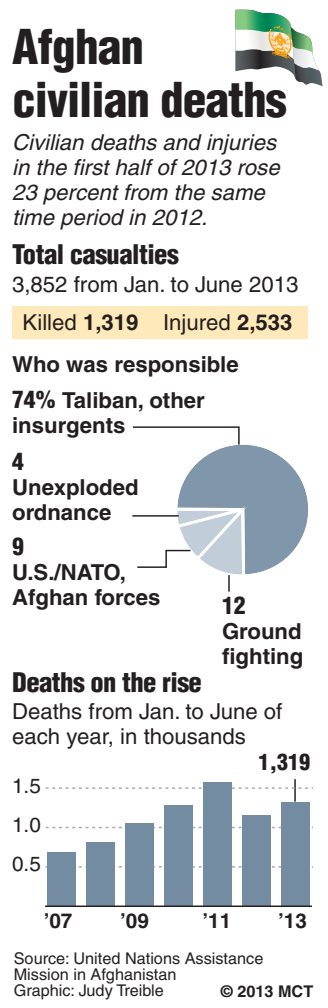
The report found that 207 civilians died and 764 were injured in clashes between Afghan forces and the Taliban, a 42 percent increase from the same period last year.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said that Afghan forces are taking more casualties because they are doing more of the fighting against the Taliban. She said it was "inevitable that the numbers will probably rise because they're taking on so much more capability. I think it's 80 percent of all security operations now."

Most foreign forces are to leave this year and there are already fewer than 100,000, 66,000 of them American. Plans to leave some troops are on hold pending signature of a delayed U.S.-Afghan security agreement.

Another cause cited by UNAMA for the intensified civilian bloodshed is a stepped-Taliban campaign against the Afghan Local Police, equipped and trained by the U.S. as a first line of defense in remote areas. These units live among the population, so civilians are more likely to be caught in the crossfire.

UNAMA also recorded 103 attacks on civilians working for the government, in which 114 died—a 76 percent jump from the first half of last year.



PH troops kill 6 Red rebels in clash

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine government forces killed at least six communist rebels in the latest in a string of recent battle losses for the insurgents, the military said Wednesday.

Troops backed by police were checking reports about armed men in a village in Tarlac province's Camiling township late Tuesday when they were fired upon by New People's Army guerrillas, said army Col. Henry Sabarre. The fighting ended early Wednesday with six rebels, including one female, dead.

Sabarre said an earlier count of seven deaths was wrong.

One wounded guerrilla later came out of hiding near the clash site and surrendered to the soldiers, fearing he would die from loss of blood from his injury, said Brig. Gen. Hernando Irriberi.

Sabarre said the recovery of a machine gun and other high-caliber weapons indicated "a top (rebel) personality is in the area." The slain rebels were not immediately identified, he said.

The rebel band was part of a larger group that operates in Tarlac, President Benigno Aquino III's home province, and adjacent provinces, he said.

"We have been conducting a series of combat operations in these areas for so long now, side by side with our peace and development teams," he said. "At the end of the day, these insurgents will have no more room to hide and eventually fall into the hands of our law."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Power back in Philippine province with $93M bill

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Electricity was restored Wednesday to most of a Philippine province that was entirely cut off for more than 24 hours when the national power grid operator stopped its supply due to $93 million in unpaid bills, officials said. Shops had been closed and hospitals had been running on generators since Tuesday morning in Albay, a province of 1.2 million people southeast of Manila. Even the provincial governor's office was not spared from the power outage. Energy Secretary Carlos Jericho Petilla said power was restored as of 5 p.m. Wednesday on the conditions that the top 100 delinquent customers—most of them business establishments—remain disconnected and that the electric cooperative pay its current outstanding bill of 59 million pesos ($1.3 million).

Restraint urged after protest deaths in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—At least 150 protesters and a dozen security forces have been killed during street demonstrations in Bangladesh over the past six months, a rights group said Thursday in urging both sides to show restraint and warning of more violence. Opposition parties and religious and political activists have made multi-pronged challenges against the government this year. Human Rights Watch documented the killings of at least a dozen members of the security forces and police officers, as well as three members of the ruling Awami League party, since February. Its report also said at least 2,000 people had been injured during the protests.

American killed in Thailand over singing dispute

BANGKOK (AP)—An American tourist who insisted on singing with the band in a bar in a beach town in Thailand was killed by one of the musicians, police said Wednesday. Bobby Ray Carter Jr., 51, died at a hospital of a stab wound in his chest after a brawl broke out early Wednesday at the bar at Ao Nang beach in Krabi province, police Lt. Col. Jongrak Pimthong said. He said Carter, a Texas native, was intoxicated, began singing with the band and refused to leave the stage to let other customers sing.

HEALTH CARE IMPACT TAX BILL (HB 18-34)
& NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDS)
FACT #1
HB 18-34 aims to increase the sin tax on tobacco and alcohol and introduce a sin tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB); the most critical risks associated with NCDs.
FACT #2
About 7 out of 10 deaths in the CNMI are due to NCDs (i.e. heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes).
FACT #3
CHC reported a 126% (N=34) increase in newly registered dialysis patients in 2012 compared to 2011(N=27).
FACT #4
PSS reported in 2013 that 57% of students are at risk of obesity.
FACT #5
: The 2011 CNMI Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) revealed current alcohol use among high school students have increased to 41.4%. - National Institute of Health
FACT #6
Tobacco abuse is the single most critical risk factor related to the leading chronic diseases in the CNMI-cancer, heart disease, and emphysema.
FACT #7
Children born in the year 2000s will be the "first generation who would die before their parents due to NCDs."
FACT #8
Evidence shows that a higher tax is the most effective way to reduce use of the sin tax products, especially among the youth and the poor.
FACT #9
HB18-34 aims to: 1) Reduce use and limit access of unhealthy products; and 2) Fund NCD prevention, medical care cost and MPLT loan.
FACT #10
Governor Eloy S. Inos signed a NCD Emergency Directive on April 18th, 2013 to mobilize "whole of society" to address the NCD crisis in the CNMI.
OBACCO FREE
"Eat Healthy, Move More and Be Tobacco-Free
*More facts and data sources are available by emailing: chcpublichealth@gmail.com .
CHCC Division of Public Health Services HB18-34 & NCDs Fact Sheet Version 2 (05/23/13)

World

Not all are pleased with the pope's 'revolution'

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Francis Revolution is underway. Not everyone is pleased.

Four months into his papacy, Francis has called on young Catholics in the trenches to take up spiritual arms to shake up a dusty, doctrinaire church that is losing faithful and relevance. He has said women must have a greater role—not as priests, but a place in the church that recognizes that Mary is more important than any of the apostles. And he has turned the Vatican upside down, quite possibly knocking the wind out of a poisonously homophobic culture by merely uttering the word "gay" and saying: so what?

In between, he has charmed millions of faithful and the mainstream news media, drawing the second-largest crowd ever to a papal Mass. That should provide some insurance as he goes about doing what he was elected to do: reform not just the dysfunctional Vatican bureaucracy but the church itself, using his own persona and personal history as a model.

"He is restoring credibility to Catholicism," said church historian Alberto Melloni.

Such enthusiasm isn't shared across the board.

Francis' predecessor, Benedict XVI, had coddled traditionalist Catholics attached to the old Latin Mass and opposed to the modernizing reforms of the Second Vatican Council. That group greeted Francis' election with concern—and now is watching its worst fears come true. Francis has spoken out both publicly and privately against such "restoratist groups," which he accuses of being navel-gazing retrogrades out of touch with the evangelizing mission of the church in the 21st century.

His recent decision to forbid priests of a religious order from celebrating the old Latin Mass without explicit authorization seemed to be abrogating one of the big initiatives of Benedict's papacy, a 2007 decree allowing broader use of the pre-Vatican II Latin liturgy for all who want it. The Vatican denied he was contradicting Benedict, but these traditional Catholics see in Francis' words and deeds a threat. They are in something of a retreat.

AP

Pope Francis blesses a child as he rides on the popemobile to celebrate mass in Rio de Janeiro Sunday July 28, 2013.

"Be smart. There will be time in the future for people to sort what Vatican II means and what it doesn't mean," the Rev. John Zuhlsdorf warned his traditionalist readers in a recent blog post. "But mark my words: If you gripe about Vatican II right now, in this present environment, you could lose what you have attained."

Even more mainstream conservative Catholics aren't thrilled with Francis.

In a recent interview with the National Catholic Reporter, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput said right-wing Catholics "generally have not been really happy" with Francis.

To be sure, Francis has not changed anything about church teaching. Nothing he has said or done is contrary to doctrine; everything he has said and done champions the Christian concepts of loving the sinner but not the sin and having a church that is compassionate, welcoming and merciful.

But tone and priorities can themselves constitute change, especially when considering issues that aren't being emphasized, such as church doctrine on abortion, gay marriage and other issues frequently referenced by Benedict and Pope John Paul II.

The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, used the word "gay" for perhaps the first time in its 150-year history on Wednesday, in an article marveling at the change Francis has brought.

"In just a few words, the novelty has been expressed clearly and without threatening the church's tradition," the newspaper said about Francis' comments on gays and women. "You can change everything without changing the basic rules, those on which Catholic tradition are based."

The biggest headline came in Francis' inflight news conference on the way home from Brazil this week, when he was asked about a trusted monsignor who reportedly once had a gay lover.

"Who am I to judge?" he asked, when it comes to the sexual orientation of priests, as long as they are searching for God and have good will.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **SIA ROOF DRAINAGE AND A/C SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, FRANCISCO C. ADA SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-003-09)**.

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2013**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of the Drainage System Improvement/Upgrade and Air-Conditioning Improvements to include the replacement of the damaged roof waterproofing with existing insulation board and diversion of the roof drain, and replacement of all PCU units and associated duct works serving all CPA (i.e. public area), all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in 330 calendar days. The contractor shall be assessed with the liquidated damages in the amount of $500/day if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00) for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the **CONFERENCE ROOM**, **Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 10:00 AM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow right after the pre-bid conference. Attendance is mandatory to all prospective bidders. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference. Contractors are required to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are encouraged to use the CD bid schedule form. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ FRANCES C. MAFNAS
Acting Board Chair/Contracting Officer

Date: July 26, 2013

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK II

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Presiding Judge and under the direct supervision of the Superior Court Clerk of Court on Saipan. The work involves the exercise of independent judgment and taking independent action in accordance with established policies, practices and court procedures. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Receive, review and record documents filed for hearings;
- Review documents presented by litigants for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court rules;
- Track cases taken under advisement, ensure updates of same and provide periodic reports to the Clerk of Court and affected judges;
- Set the court calendar and adjust the same to maximize courtroom time and meet unusual situations;
- Prepare bench warrants, subpoenas, summons and other related documents for issuance;
- Assess fines, receive and account for monies, issue receipts, prepare deposit slips, and make disbursements when ordered or directed;
- Interpret and disseminate information, policies, and procedures governing the hearing of cases;
- Assist with the certification of records in cases appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court;
- Serve as a courtroom clerk for the judges, which includes but is not limited to the following: ensuring courtroom readiness for proceedings, attending court sessions, administering oaths to witnesses, operating electronic recording equipment, listing all relevant portions of proceedings on a log, receiving, marking and assuming responsibility of all introduced evidence, and performing translation during proceedings;
- Assist the Clerk of Court with Jury Trial Coordination. Compile, track, and update applicable lists of Commonwealth citizens eligible for jury service, and
- Performs other related duties as assigned by the Presiding Judge and/or Superior Court Clerk of Court.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate should have any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in business administration or related field, plus a minimum of four (4) years of experience in law, law enforcement, court administration or related work. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a bachelor's degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary will be $25,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Off The Wall

3 Utah sisters have 3 baby boys in July

AP

This video frame grab, Mack Turner, left, Boston Stokes, and Stryker Hoffman are shown Tuesday, July 30, 2013 in Layton, Utah.

LAYTON, Utah (AP)—July is full-fledged baby season for one Utah family.

Three sisters from Layton gave birth to three baby boys in the month of July, including two who were born about an hour apart, The Deseret News reports.

Even in baby-centric Utah, that's pretty remarkable.

The trio says they didn't plan on getting pregnant at the same time. Misti Stokes, 24, said she found out first. Her younger sister, Courtnee Hoffman, 21, later asked her if she had a pregnancy test to spare. It was positive.

The sisters told their older sister, Kristal Turner, 25, then asked if she was sad she wasn't expecting, but she said no—because she was also pregnant.

Stokes gave birth to her baby, Boston, on July 3. Hoffman had her son, Stryker, early Saturday, and Turner's baby, Mack, was born 65 minutes later in the same hospital.

At one point before the birth, Turner passed her mother in the hallways of the Circle of Life Women's Center, part of the Ogden Regional Medical Center. She was on her way to see Hoffman.

"She's like, `What are you doing? Are you going to see Courtnee?'" Turner said. "And I'm like, `No, I'm going to have my baby.'"

The sisters were in rooms across the hall from each other, both feeling bad they couldn't be with the other to provide support. Nurses helped by keeping each up-to-date on the other's contractions and the babies' heart rates.

"We couldn't go really into each other's room very much, but we would send pictures back and forth and text and ask how each other is doing," Hoffman told the Deseret News.

Their mother was bouncing back and forth between the rooms as each went through the stages of labor, said Dr. Darren Housel, who delivered both babies.

The fact that both babies came naturally, rather than being induced, made it even more remarkable, he said. It was something he hadn't seen before in his 20 years as a doctor.

"We are all kind of baffled that such a coincidental thing would occur," Housel said. "Over 5,000 babies, I can safely say that I've never delivered sisters on the same day. It was cool, a fun experience to be part of."

The three sisters say their bond is now stronger than ever.

"It's been fun to go through it together," Hoffman said.

The three baby cousins were together for the first time Tuesday.

"I really think that there's a reason why all three are born together," Turner said. "They are going to have a great support system for each other."

Utah had the highest birth rate in the country in 2009, U.S. Census data shows. Utah had 19.4 births per 1,000 people. The 3-year-old data is the latest available comparing state's birth rates.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Texan gets another wrong water bill topping $66K

DALLAS (AP)—A Dallas man says he's shocked to have been swamped with a nearly $67,000 erroneous water bill a few months after a similar computer error. Tom Hoffman says he is looking forward to getting a new bill after the latest mistake that Dallas officials blame on a bad water meter. WFAA-TV reported Monday that Hoffman canceled his auto-payment system earlier this year after getting a water bill for more than $66,000. Hoffman's financial accounts were frozen before the error was fixed. Now it's happened again. City of Dallas spokesman Frank Librio says the stuck meter has been replaced and accurate billing will follow. Librio also apologized for the error and the inconvenience to Hoffman.

Arizona boy digging for worms finds a handgun

PRESCOTT, Ariz. (AP)—A 9-year-old boy digging for worms in northern Arizona found a gun buried near his home. Police in Prescott say the stainless-steel .38-caliber revolver was in plastic bag along with one bullet just under the ground's surface. Police say it appears the gun was only covered up to hide it until someone came back to get it. They say they don't know who owns the gun or how it ended up buried near the home of the boy who found it Monday. Police didn't identify the boy. Authorities say the gun's serial number has been checked and it's not reported missing.

Wing-eating champ El Wingador faces NJ prison term

WOODBURY, N.J. (AP)—A five-time Buffalo wing-eating champion known as El Wingador has pleaded guilty to a cocaine distribution charge in New Jersey. Gloucester County prosecutors say William Simmons pleaded guilty Monday to possession with intent to distribute. The 51-year-old Woodbury Heights resident faces a seven-year prison when he's sentenced in September. Prosecutors say they won't object if he applies for an intensive supervision program that could shorten his sentence. Several drug charges were filed against Simmons following a June 2012 traffic stop. Simmons admitted he was using "a little bit" of cocaine at the time. El Wingador last won Philadelphia's Wing Bowl in 2005, when he gnawed through 162 chicken wings. The Wing Bowl was started as a way for Philadelphia sports fans to blow off steam before the Super Bowl.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Francisco Aguon Reyes

aka "Ankie Onio"

Now joins in his wife †Regina DLG Reyes
&
Survived by his wife Rita Indalecio Reyes

Born January 14, 1944
Called to Eternal Rest on July 29, 2013

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Parents: *†Jose M. Reyes & †Rosa A. Reyes*
Son: *†Wilbur DLG Reyes*
Grandsons: *†Vincent Reyes DLG & †Connor Franklin Reyes*
Sister: *†Ladonna Reyes Dement*

His Loving Memories Will Forever live in the Hearts of His:
Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren:
Maecy R. DLG (Fred): Tiara Lucia (Kaya Lucia), Regina
Shirley R. Dela Cruz (Eloy): Hannah Mae (Benny & Coby), Eloy Jr., Carina Lynn (Shianne)
Jolyn R. Pangelinan (Ian): Zoe, Ian Jayden
Yvonne DLG Reyes: Jordan, Tyler

Nightly Mass is being prayed at San Antonio Church at 6:00 p.m.. Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday August 6th 2013. The body of the late Francisco will depart from the Commonwealth Health Center at 7:30 a.m. and will be escorted to San Antonio Church for viewing followed by Mass of Intention at 10:00 a.m.. Christian Burial Service for the late Francisco will be at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in Prayers.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
The Family

Science & Technology

3-D printers are beginning to make an impression

By SHAN LI
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Diego Porqueras' Deezmaker store in Pasadena, Calif., is a geeky version of Santa's workshop, brimming with action figures, chess pieces and jewelry.

But instead of relying on elves, Porqueras has built his own one-man factory using 3-D printers capable of churning out plastic objects within a few hours. He sells the printers, which go for as little as $650, at the shop, which opened in September in a strip mall.

The 37-year-old entrepreneur is part of an emerging industry for affordable 3-D printers. The technology has long been used in the aerospace and automotive industries, among others, to create prototypes, but has slowly crept into the consumer market with simplified printers that can be had for a few hundred or thousand dollars.

"You can make so many things with them," Porqueras said. "People who have businesses buy them for making prototypes. Parents buy them to make toys for their kids. Hobbyists buy them because they like to tinker."

3-D enthusiasts imagine a day when these printers are as ubiquitous as phones and people print out many household goods instead of stopping at a store. Small-business owners are already switching to these printers from more expensive industrial machines. Prices are expected to drop even further after key patents on 3-D printing technology expire next year.

Usually about the size of a microwave, these machines "print" three-dimensional objects by melting plastic and depositing the material layer by tiny layer based on a three-dimensional computer-generated design of a necklace, say, or a fork. More advanced—and expensive—printers can use materials such as metal and chocolate.

For those who are less tech-savvy, there are new smartphone applications that streamline the process of crafting or altering a design. Online markets have also popped up in which shoppers can customize and order 3-D-printed clothing, toys, gadget accessories and other products.

Industry experts say 3-D printing could revolutionize traditional manufacturing, much as the Internet upended the music industry, and fundamentally alter how consumers shop and how much they pay. Some tech companies are already foreseeing a day when every home contains a 3-D printer churning out custom furniture and clothes, or a Kinko's-esque store in every neighborhood where items can be manufactured on demand via printers.

It's also raised concerns among law enforcement professionals, who worry that criminals will be able to print untraceable guns and other weapons at home.

"The billion-dollar question is, how big will this become and when?" said Terry Wohlers, president of consulting firm Wohlers Associates, which tracks the industry. "You see companies already making fashion garments and jewelry through printing. And we have seen demonstrations of 3-D printing food and living tissue."

Wohlers said that by 2021, the U.S. market is estimated to hit $10.8 billion, up from $2.2 billion last year and $$1.18 billion in 2008. The industry has been growing, on average, more than 25 percent a year for the past decade. The consumer side, which is in its nascent stages, is especially ripe for growth, Wohlers said.

Tech companies are already salivating at the opportunities.

In June, 3-D veteran Stratasys Ltd., which for decades has made ultra-pricey printers for companies such as Boeing Co. and General Motors Co., announced plans to buy MakerBot, which specializes in affordable desktop printers. Rival 3D Systems Inc. launched two consumer-oriented models this year, the Cube ($1,299) and the CubeX ($2,499 and up).

Small-business owners have already taken to the printers.

John Hariot of Los Angeles, for one, is using a printer bought from Deezmaker to create prototypes, such as knobs for drawers, for his new cabinet-making company. He said the 3-D printer is a much cheaper option compared with the pricey rapid-prototyping machines he once had to use.

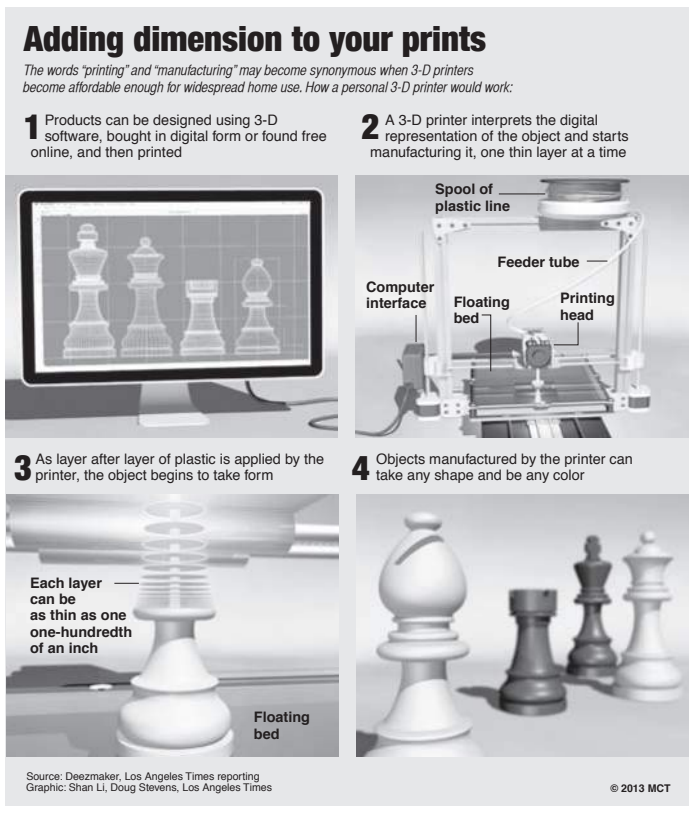
"It's much easier to work with, and there's less waste," he said.

For consumers who aren't tinkerers or designers, industry experts say, a potentially bigger market could lie in on-demand services. Think of it as Amazon.com for custom orders, only with no warehouses required because a purse or belt is only made after it's ordered.

Shoppers can already go on sites such as Shapeways or Cubify, run by 3D Systems, and either find a designer for a custom design or tweak an available product.

More than 10,000 shops have been set up by designers on Shapeways, which manufactures and ships a product after an order comes in, said company spokeswoman Elisa Richardson. Bestselling items include iPhone accessories, jewelry, home decor and wedding cake toppers—grooms and brides-to-be send in photos of themselves and receive toppers with their faces printed on them.

Kimberly Orvitz, a fashion designer who recently launched a 3-D printed jewelry line, said the technology saves money: There's no requirement to order products in bulk from a factory and no storage costs. Shoppers can also "customize by selecting colors and materials," she said.


Adding dimension to your prints
The words "printing" and "manufacturing" may become synonymous when 3-D printers become affordable enough for widespread home use. How a personal 3-D printer would work:
1 Products can be designed using 3-D software, bought in digital form or found free online, and then printed
2 A 3-D printer interprets the digital representation of the object and starts manufacturing it, one thin layer at a time
Spool of plastic line
Feeder tube
Computer interface
Floating bed
Printing head
3 As layer after layer of plastic is applied by the printer, the object begins to take form
4 Objects manufactured by the printer can take any shape and be any color
Each layer can be as thin as one one-hundredth of an inch
Floating bed
Source: Deezmaker, Los Angeles Times reporting
Graphic: Shan Li, Doug Stevens, Los Angeles Times
© 2013 MCT

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Agueda Cruz Pangelinan Sablan

Lovingly known as "Tan Aguedan Ignacio"

February 05, 1930 – July 29, 2013

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:

Husband: †Ignacio Dionisio Dela Torre Sablan (Ignacion Manila)
Parents: †Luis Mendiola Pangelinan, †Antonia Borja Cruz Pangelinan
Parents-in-law: †Francisco Palacios Sablan, †Maria Dela Torre Sablan

Brothers, Sisters, In-Laws:
†**Jose C**. Pangelinan, †**Vicente C**. Pangelinan, †**Cornelio C**. Pangelinan, **Jesus C**. & †Dolores P. Pangelinan, †**Ramon C**. & †Tomasa L. Pangelinan, †**Cecilia C**. Pangelinan, †**Maria P**. & †Joaquin Delacruz, †**Juan C**. & †Consolacion C. Pangelinan, †**Rosa C**. Pangelinan, †**Ana P**. & †Juan S. Blas, †**Jose C**. Pangelinan, †**Carmen P**. & Jose C. Agulto, †Pedro Dela Torre Sablan.

Son-in-law: †Jesus R. Tenorio

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children: **Frank P.** Sablan (Maria April Luv, Frances Monique, Marie Antonette, Christopher Vincent)
Luis P. Sablan (Ignacio Dionisio, Raymond Vincent, Kelsi Tiana)
Vicente P. and Sheila B. Sablan
Gregorio P. Sablan

Reared Children:
Josephine P. Tenorio (Edwin Arnold & Honora Tenorio & children) & (Lucille P. Tenorio & Children)
Antonia A. and Vicente C. Aldan (Frances/Eliceo Valdez & children) (Celina/Roy Reyes & children) (Vincent Keith Aldan & children) (Joseph/Patricia Aldan & children) (Carla/Norman Redor & children) (Darlene Dione Aldan/Michael DLGuerrero & daughter)

Ignacio Jr. P. and Laura Kiyoshi & children
Lina Mae M. Delacruz

Brothers, Sisters In-Laws: Leonardo & Eula Sablan, Lourdes & Luis H., Elena Q. Sablan

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated each evening at 06:00 p.m. at Santa Soledad Church followed by Holy Rosary. On Sunday, August 4th, Holy Rosary will be prayed at 08:30 am followed by Sunday mass at 09:30 am.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, August 06, 2013. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 07:30 a.m. to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso services will be at 08:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS
Children & Family

A good drive can help transfer data between computers

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I need to use a flash drive to copy my files, photos and iTunes music from a PC that I share with my husband, then transfer them to a laptop. What is the easiest way to do it? Just click and drag each individual file? When I transfer the data to the laptop, do I just insert the flash drive and do a "save as"?—Yvette Irving-Johnson, Burnsville, Minn.

ANSWER: Transferring files, photos and songs can be done by dragging and dropping individual files or file folders. You can save time by "block defining" groups of files or folders; hold down the left mouse button and drag it over the files or folders before letting up on the button. For music, drag and drop the iTunes music folder, which can be found on your hard drive under Libraries, Music, iTunes, iTunes Media, Music.

But first determine the scope of the task, which will determine whether a flash drive or a higher-capacity external hard drive would be a better device for transferring the data. (You can, of course, move the data via several transfers with a flash drive, but this can sometimes cause more work. For example, if your iTunes folder holds a lot of music, its size might exceed the capacity of your flash drive, forcing you to transfer only groups of songs rather than all of them at once.)

You can figure out in advance how big a storage device you need by right-clicking on the files or folders you plan to move, then clicking "Properties." The "Size" category tells you how much data they contain. By adding up the totals, you'll quickly get an idea whether you need a flash drive or an external hard drive.

A 128-gigabyte flash drive with USB 3.0, the fast data transfer rate standard that will soon be common on new computers, costs about $120. A 1-terabyte portable hard drive (the equivalent of about 1,000 gigabytes) with USB 3.0 costs about $90.

You can drag and drop your transferred files and folders to the C drive, but first rename your iTunes folder to avoid having it overwrite an existing iTunes folder on the laptop. (Highlight and right click the iTunes folder and choose "Rename" from the list. Type a new name and press the "enter" key.)

Store the renamed iTunes folder in the Libraries, Music folder of the laptop. In iTunes, go to "File" and click "Add folder to library." You'll be taken to the Music folder; add the renamed iTunes folder to iTunes.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

In Humble Gratitude

On the passing of our beloved

†Roxanne Marie Reyes Maratita-Weaver

(Rox/Roxie)

There are no words adequate enough to describe the pain and sense of loss that is felt upon the death of one's wife and mother. Yet, in this time of loss, the prayers, kind words, and gracious support of family and friends have been a balm to our sorrow and a source of strength.

Your presence and prayers at the daily masses, nightly rosaries and most especially at the Mass of Christian Burial were very comforting.

In a special way, we express our gratitude to Fr. Ryan, Fr. Nonoy, Fr. Ken U, Fr. Isaac, Fr. Romil, the alter servers; our Techa, Mrs. Marcie P. Cepeda for leading us in prayer during the nightly rosaries; MHS Class of '86, Kristo Rai Choir and the Thaddeus Choir for their beautiful music; Ms. Emi Palican; Doctors, Nurses and Staff of CHC, the CNMI Judiciary; DPS and EMS Personnel, Borja Funeral Homes, Shirley's Catering, Get Covered Enterprises, Mr. & Mrs. James P. Reyes and MJ Kitchenette & Catering.

We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to ALL who have helped us in one way or another and to those who have travelled great distances to show their support and condolences to us.

Your presence, compassion, and kindness are deeply appreciated and will be remembered always.

May our loving and kind Lord richly bless all of you and keep you in his heart.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You

Gene, Children and Family

In Celebration of His New Life

†Edward Pangelinan

May 23, 1957 – July 31, 2013

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Father: †Sylvestre Tenorio Cruz
Paternal Grandparents: †Jose Catson Cruz, †Rosa Mendiola Tenorio Cruz
Maternal Grandparents: †Jesus Cruz Pangelinan, †Dolores Pangelinan Pangelinan
Mother at Heart: †Angelina Pangelinan Cruz
Sisters-In-Law: †Teresita C. Cruz, †Rosemarie E. Cruz
Brother: †Joaquin P. Cruz

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Mother: **Ana Pangelinan Cruz**

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws

Jose P. and Lorna C. Cruz (Joanna/Romeo, Christopher Ian, Kenny/Florence, Joseph Jr./Jennifer, Gavin, Reeka/Mike, Joseph Louis, Josue, Jemimah, Jeanna)
Dolores P. Cruz and Samson S. Palacios (Dwight/Maritess, Verna/Joe, Betsy Ann)
Jesus P. and Edna O. Cruz (Rochelle, Conrad/Triny, Jason/Jappy)
Bernadita C. and Peter H. Palacios (Regina, Reena/Bruce, Peter Jr., Realyn)
Laurinda C. and Joseph Rudy B. Santos (Milton/Kailee, Ana Lisa, Gregory, Samantha)
Luis P. and Marciana F. Cruz (Emerson/Tia, Elizabeth/Jed, Pee Jay/Tasha, Jennifer)
Jeffrey P. and Cecilia C. Cruz (Jecelle/Casey, Kioni/Ayana, Jamilla/Mark)
Principia P. Cruz (Yonis, Thealanie/Melton, Kyle-Bambino)
Joseph Rodney and Easton Santos
Emma P. and Aaron Yobech (Patrick, Juan, Tuloy, Brel & Angelina Santos)
Rosa P. Cruz (Juanette/Peter, Joanna/John, David)

Caregiver: Joseph Jr. Cepeda Santos
Godmother: Ana SN. Cruz

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends.
Holy Rosary is prayed nightly at 07:45 p.m. at San Jose Church on Tinian.

On Sunday, August 4th, his remains will leave CHC at 03:30 pm and transported to Tinian Health Center at 4:00 pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, August 08, 2013. His remains will be escorted from the Tinian Health Center at 07:30 a.m. to San Jose Church on Tinian. Responso services will be at 08:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Tinian Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

Ana Pangelinan Cruz and Family

In Celebration of His New Life

†Joaquin Sablan Arriola

Lovingly known as "Joaquin Ninai"

January 22, 1948 – July 31, 2013

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Parents: †Gregorio Torres Arriola, †Juliana Sablan Arriola

Parents-in-law: †Vincent I. Fabricante, †Agrifina U. Fabricante

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: **Erlinda Fabricante Arriola**

Children: **Mary Adeline** *Carpio*, **Gregory F.** and *Pusta Arriola* (Faith & Neveah)

Brothers, Sister and In-Laws
Pedro S. and Donna Arriola & children
Rosa S. Arriola/Tomas Rabago & children
Juan S. and Sadako Arriola & children

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated each morning at 06:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, August 08, 2013. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 07:30 a.m. to Santa Soledad Church in Kagman. Responso services will be at 08:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens where he will begin his peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

Erlinda Fabricante Arriola, Children & Family

Life & Style

Rowling accepts donation for identity revelation

LONDON (AP)—Author J.K. Rowling accepted an apology and a charitable donation Wednesday from a law firm that revealed she wrote a crime novel under a pseudonym.

The "Harry Potter" author was exposed by a newspaper on July 14 as the author of "The Cuckoo's Calling," a thriller ostensibly written by former soldier and first-time novelist Robert Galbraith.

The book was published in April to good reviews but modest sales, and there was speculation that Rowling or her publisher had leaked the news to raise the book's profile.

But the law firm Russells, which has done work for Rowling, acknowledged that one of its partners had let the information slip to his wife's best friend, who tweeted it to a Sunday Times columnist.

Rowling

Rowling sued the lawyer and the friend. Her attorney, Jenny Afia, told Britain's High Court on Wednesday that Rowling had been left "angry and distressed that her confidences had been betrayed."

"As a reflection of their regret for breach of the claimant's confidence, including frustrating the claimant's ability to continue to write anonymously under the name Robert Galbraith, the defendants are here today to apologize publicly to the claimant," Afia said.

Russells agreed to reimburse Rowling's legal costs and to make a "substantial" donation to The Soldiers' Charity, which helps former military personnel and their families.

Rowling also said she was donating all royalties from the book for the next three years to the charity.

The hero of her novel, Cormoran Strike, is a veteran who lost a leg in Afghanistan, and Rowling has said she drew on conversations with serving soldiers and veterans to create the character.

"This donation is being made to The Soldiers' Charity partly as a thank you to the army people who helped me with research, but also because writing a hero who is a veteran has given me an even greater appreciation and understanding of exactly how much this charity does for ex-servicemen and their families, and how much that support is needed," Rowling said in a statement.

The writer said she had always intended to give part of Galbraith's royalties to the organization, "but I had not anticipated him making the best-seller list a mere three months after publication—indeed, I had not counted on him ever being there!"

Since Rowling was outed as the author, "The Cuckoo's Calling" has topped best-seller lists in Britain and the United States.

A second Cormoran Strike novel is due for publication next year.

Restored Star Trek ship Galileo arrives in Houston

HOUSTON (AP)—When the smoke cleared and the music died down, Candy Torres could no longer contain herself. Looking at the shiny, restored Star Trek Galileo shuttlecraft sitting in Houston in all its TV glory, she broke down.

"All of a sudden I was just crying. I was in tears. I couldn't believe it," Torres said, donning a brown tourist engineer hat and a NASA mission operations shirt. "It meant something."

And Torres wasn't alone. Trekkies of all stripes arrived in Houston Wednesday for the momentous unveiling of the shuttlecraft that crash-landed on a hostile planet in the 1967 "Star Trek" episode called "The Galileo Seven." Some wore Scotty's Repair Shop T-shirts, others full-blown spandex outfits worn by Mr. Spock and his peers in the famous TV show and movies that have garnered a following so large and so devoted it is almost cult-like.

Adam Schneider paid $61,000 for the battered shuttlecraft in an auction and spent about a year restoring the fiberglass ship and making it look nearly as it did on that episode. He flew in from New York to mark the unveiling at the Space Center Houston, where it will be permanently displayed not far from NASA's Mission Control.

AP

Candy Torres is photographed standing in front of the restored space shuttle Galileo from the 1960's television show Star Trek holding her plastic toy version of the vehicle at Space Center Houston Wednesday, July 31, 2013, in Houston.

"Unbelievably proud," he said, beaming alongside the white shuttle. "Like sending your kid to college and having them get a job to build a successful life, because this was under our care for a year and we grew very attached."

Jeff Langston, 45, drove more than 160 miles from Austin with his two sons to see the moment. He and his 12-year-old son, Pearce, wore matching red Scotty's Repair Shop T-shirts. His 10-year-old son, Neo, couldn't find his shirt, but that didn't put a damper on the moment.

"It was very exciting," Neo said, bouncing on his feet. "When they filmed Star Trek the Galileo was cool and now that they remade it, it's cool to see a new version of the Galileo. And it's beautiful."

Richard Allen, the space center's 63-year-old CEO and president, hopes that just as the Star Trek movies and others like it inspired Torres to pursue a career in science and engineering, that today's generation will be similarly inspired when they see the Galileo.

"It's fantastic," he said of the shuttlecraft. "We're all about exciting and educating ... and I'm convinced that space is one of the best, if not the best, way of creating inquiry in young minds."

Lohan completes rehab stint; more therapy ordered

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan has completed her court-ordered stay in rehab and must continue therapy into late next year, a judge said Wednesday.

The "Liz & Dick" star must meet with a therapist at least three times a week until November 2014, Superior Court Judge James R. Dabney said, following the treatment recommendation of Richard Taite, founder and CEO of Cliffside Malibu, the rehab facility where Lohan was recently residing.

lohan

Taite wrote Dabney a letter stating the need for Lohan to remain in therapy.

"Our entire clinical team is in unanimous agreement that if these sessions are not required by the court and attendance verified once a month to ensure accountability, it is a setup for almost certain failure," Taite wrote.

The judge's ruling calls for Lohan to receive 18 months of therapy and gives her credit for the three months of rehab that she has just completed.

If the actress is traveling, she can meet with her therapist via videoconferencing software, the judge said.

Lohan, 27, was not present at the hearing meant to update Dabney on her progress.

The actress remains on probation for a pair of cases involving the theft of a necklace and lying to police about driving when her sports car slammed into a dump truck on Pacific Coast Highway in June 2012.

Taite praised Lohan's progress in recent months.

"We couldn't be happier with the progress Ms. Lohan has made in building a solid foundation from which to continue the excellent work she has begun here at Cliffside Malibu," he wrote.

Lohan started her treatment at the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage and was later transferred to Cliffside Malibu. Her next court date is scheduled for November 2014.

The actress's latest film, "The Canyons" will have a limited theatrical release in New York and Los Angeles in August. She has signed a deal on OWN to appear in an eight-part series based on her life and will be interviewed by Oprah Winfrey in August.

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THE WOLVERINE [CC] (PG-13)
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Times For 08/02 - 08/08
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Rihanna wins case against UK retailer Topshop

LONDON (AP)—Pop singer Rihanna has won a court case in Britain against retailer Topshop, which was selling T-shirts bearing her image without permission.

High Court Justice Colin Birss ruled in favor of the singer on Wednesday, saying buyers were likely deceived by believing Rihanna had authorized its sale.

"I am quite satisfied that many fans of Rihanna regard her endorsement as important," the judge said in his ruling. "She is their style icon. Many will buy a product because they think she has approved of it. Others will wish to buy it because of the value of the perceived authorization itself. In both cases they will have been deceived."

Birss also said the sales caused a loss of control over Rihanna's reputation in the fashion realm, where the singer has been trying to carve out a name as a designer. She has a clothing line in her name at a rival store.

The shirts were first sold as the "Rihanna Tank." After her complaints, they were sold as being the "Headscarf Girl Tank" and the "Icon Tank."

Topshop's owner, Arcadia Group Brands Ltd., had argued that Rihanna was seeking legal recognition for a flawed assumption that only a celebrity could market a product bearing his or her image.

Topshop said it was surprised and disappointed by the ruling and was considering an appeal.

"There was no intention by Topshop to create the appearance of an endorsement or promotion," it said in a statement. "We do not believe it conveyed any false message to our customers."

The judge did not make an assessment of damages in his ruling.

In this Wednesday, July 10, 2013 file photo, singer, songwriter Rihanna performs at "Le Sporting" in Monaco during her "Diamonds World Tour".

AP

Hollywood to explore Bradley Manning, WikiLeaks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The story of WikiLeaks is the kind of real-life drama Hollywood loves, so expect to see multiple interpretations of it on the big screen.

Several projects chronicle the organization's enigmatic leader, Julian Assange, and recently convicted U.S. leaker Bradley Manning.

Alex Gibney's documentary, "We Steal Secrets: The Story of WikiLeaks," was released earlier this year. Bill Condon's narrative take on the tale, "The Fifth Estate," will premiere in September at the Toronto Film Festival.

Two other WikiLeaks projects are in development. "Zero Dark Thirty" screenwriter Mark Boal optioned a New York Times article about Assange earlier this year, and Gibney acquired the rights last year to Denver Nicks' 2012 book, "Private: Bradley Manning, WikiLeaks, and the Biggest Exposure of Official Secrets in American History."

"The Bradley Manning story is easily one of the most important stories of the last decade," Nicks told Democracy Now! last year. "In many ways, Bradley Manning's story is the story of the United States in the post-9/11 era."

Queen Latifah calls on pals for new talk show

AP

This Oct. 5, 2012 file photo shows Queen Latifah at Variety's 4th annual Power of Women event in Beverly Hills, Calif.

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP)—Queen Latifah (lah-TEE'-fuh) says her new daytime talk show is calling on A-list friends for support, including musicians Alicia Keys and Lenny Kravitz.

Keys has already participated in test runs of "The Queen Latifah Show." And Kravitz's design firm created the set.

There are more pals at the show's highest levels. Will Smith and his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, are among its producers.

Producer Corin Nelson said "The Queen Latifah Show" will be light on politics. But Latifah already has two big Washington guests in mind: During a White House visit, the actress and rapper extended an invitation to President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama.

Latifah spoke to members of the Television Critics Association visiting her Los Angeles-area Sony Studios set Wednesday.

Her syndicated show debuts Sept. 16.

Milton Greene rare slides of Marilyn, others snag $1.8M

NEW YORK (AP)—Tens of thousands of negatives of Marilyn Monroe and other stars by celebrity photographer Milton Greene have sold at auction for $1.8 million.

The archive includes 3,700 negatives and slides of Marilyn Monroe. All the material was sold with copyright.

Profiles in History auction house says the highlights included a collection of color transparencies of the Hollywood siren with Laurence Olivier from the "The Prince and the Showgirl" movie. It sold for $42,000.

A group of transparencies of Monroe from the film "Bus Stop" fetched $39,000.

The seller is an American photography collector who purchased the archive 10 years ago. The items came from the Greene estate.

AP

In this photo provided by Profiles in History, July 9, 2013, is a 1955 portrait of actress Marilyn Monroe by fashion and celebrity photographer Milton H. Greene.

The buyers weren't identified.

Like his contemporaries Irving Penn and Richard Avedon, Greene is credited with elevating fashion photography to fine art.

Denzel Washington returning to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Denzel Washington is returning to Broadway—but he won't be singing.

Standing with his wife, Pauletta Pearson, on the red carpet Monday at the premiere his new movie, "2 Guns," the Oscar- and Tony-winning actor said he's set to appear in a revival of Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun."

"We start previews in March," he said.

Washington then explained his motivation for returning to the stage.

"I'm trying to keep up with my wife. My wife has been doing a lot more theater than me," he said as Pearson smiled.

Washington said they were heading to North Carolina for the National Black Theatre Festival, where Pearson is starring in the award-winning "Power Play."

"I'm looking forward to one day singing," Washington said playfully to Pearson's amusement. "See, I just wanted to get something out of her. She knows I can't sing. But she can sing."

As they walked away, the 58-year-old actor continued: "I can sing. I can sing ... in the shower."

AP

Actor Denzel Washington, right, attends the premiere of "Two Guns" with his wife actress Pauletta Washington, left, on Monday, July 29, 2013, in New York.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Country star Randy Travis discharged from hospital

PLANO, Texas (AP)—Country music star Randy Travis is out of the hospital three weeks after he was admitted with congestive heart failure and later suffered a stroke. A statement Wednesday says Travis has been discharged from The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano near Dallas, where he'd been admitted July 7. The statement from publicist Kirt Webster goes on to say Travis has been moved to a physical therapy center for further treatment for a stroke he suffered July 10. The 54-year-old singer developed the heart failure due to a viral illness. The stroke prompted surgeons to operate to relieve pressure on his brain. Travis' fiancee Mary Davis gave thanks for the prayers and support the singer received from fans and friends for his recovery.

'Dueling Dinos' found in Montana to be sold in NYC

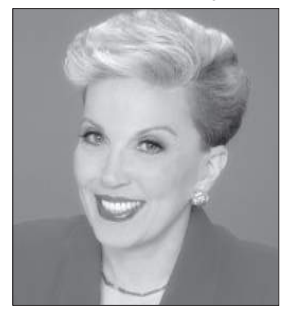
NEW YORK (AP)—Two fossilized dinosaur skeletons found on a Montana ranch in 2006 are coming up for sale in New York City. The nearly complete skeletons are billed as the Montana Dueling Dinosaurs. They'll be offered as a single lot at Bonhams on Nov. 19. The auction house estimates it could bring $7 million to $9 million. Bonhams says the dinosaurs—a plant eater and a meat-eater—appear to be locked together in mortal combat. They're being sold by the owners of the ranch where the fossils were found. It's located in the fossil-rich Hell Creek formation, where dinosaurs once roamed. Each of the specimens is well preserved. Paleontologists believe one may be a close relative of Tyrannosaurus rex. The other may be a new species similar to a Triceratops.

'Parks and Rec' loses 2 cast members

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC's "Parks and Recreation" is losing two of its cast members. Rob Lowe and Rashida Jones will leave the series after the 13th episode of the upcoming sixth season. They play characters Chris Traeger and Ann Perkins. The news was first reported by Buzzfeed. In an emailed statement from the show's Executive Producer Mike Schur, he said, "Heading into this year, with the two of them contemplating parenthood, it felt like the natural time to move them into the next phase." On "Parks and Rec," Lowe and Jones' characters dated on-and-off and have decided to try to have a baby together. "Parks and Recreation" also stars Amy Poehler, Nick Offerman, Aubrey Plaza and Aziz Ansari as employees working in local government in Indiana. Jones has been on the series since its first episode. Lowe joined the show in season two. This isn't the first time Lowe has left a TV series before it went off the air. He left NBC's "The West Wing" and ABC's "Brothers and Sisters" after four seasons.

Summer fun at the beach can turn tragic in blink of an eye

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been a lifeguard for more than 30 years, and I continually see parents and other adults putting children in harm's way. Would you please remind your readers that they need to be vigilant around water? A drowning is nothing like they show in the movies.

As you take your family to your favorite swimming hole this summer, please be careful. If your child isn't a competent swimmer, NEVER allow him or her to go beyond arm's reach. Never exceed the ratio of two nonswimmers to one adult. If possible, stay where the child can touch the bottom.

If your children can swim and you allow them to go into the pool, lake, ocean without you—ALWAYS WATCH THEM! Yes, lifeguards are observing the swimmers—but no one on this planet will watch your child with the same vigilance that you will.

So put down the book, the e-reader, the tablet, the cellphone and ACTIVELY WATCH. If you're chatting with friends, don't look at them; watch your child. It can take as few as 10 to 20 seconds for a person to get into trouble and slip without a sound beneath the surface. I guarantee you: Your parent-to-child ratio is lower than that of any lifeguard-to-swimmer.

LIFEGUARD JOHN IN AUBURN, WASH.

DEAR LIFEGUARD JOHN: Your message is important and timely. Every year we read about families basking in the sun near water, and children who have lost their lives because the person who was supposed to be watching them became momentarily distracted. I agree the best way to protect against tragedies like this is unremitting vigilance. Thanks for giving me a chance to say it again.

DEAR ABBY: I have a brother-in-law whom I love dearly who lives out of state and stays in our guest room frequently. I try hard to be a thoughtful hostess. When he comes, we spend the first 45 minutes rearranging the guest room furniture because he likes the bed to face west. Currently, it faces north, as do the nightstands and the dresser.

I accommodate him, but frankly, it's getting very old. Am I being nasty to want our furniture arranged the way we're comfortable? Or must I allow him to rearrange it the way he wants it? He is here for only 24 hours and then leaves.

GOOD HOSTESS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HOSTESS: Your brother-in-law may be a frustrated interior decorator, or want the room to be the way he sleeps at home. A good hostess tries to accommodate the needs of her guests; however, if the furniture in your house has been moved, your brother-in-law should put it back the way it was before he leaves.

DEAR ABBY: Do you or your readers think it's acceptable for a father to ask his 21-year-old college student son whether he and his girlfriend of one year are sexually active? This is his first girlfriend.

I am his mother, and I say it's none of our business. My husband says it's a reasonable question; he just wants to give him fatherly advice—like "be careful."

MOM IN COLORADO

DEAR MOM: Would you still say it's none of your business if your son made his first girlfriend pregnant? I would, however, caution your husband to be more tactful about how he approaches the subject because a blunt question like the one he's contemplating could be off-putting. If he has birth control information he wants to impart, a better way to approach it would be to raise the subject without putting his son on the spot.

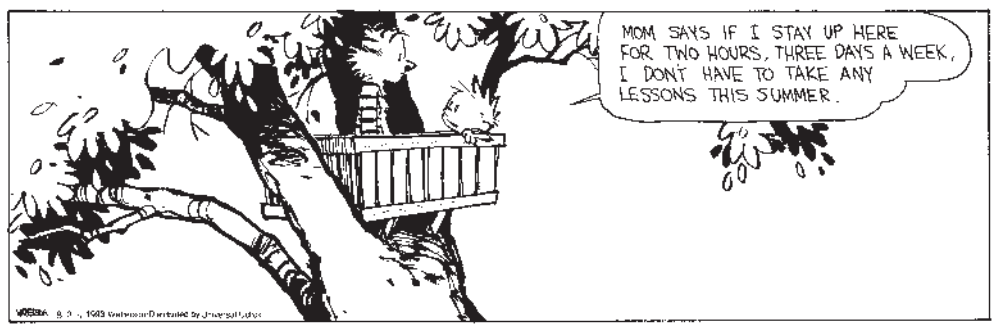
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

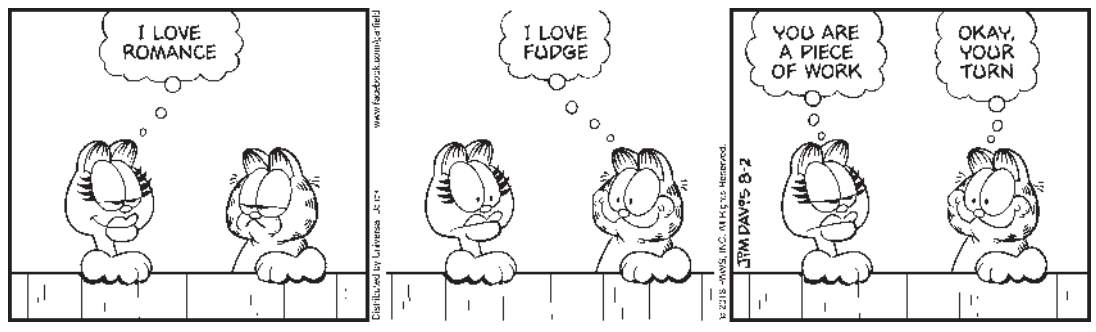
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



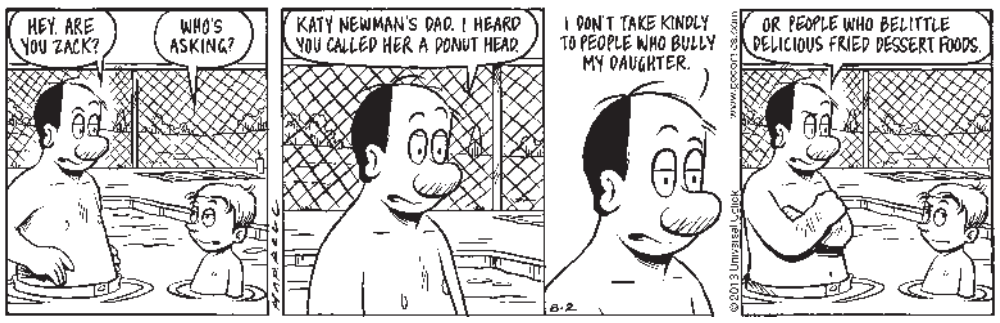
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



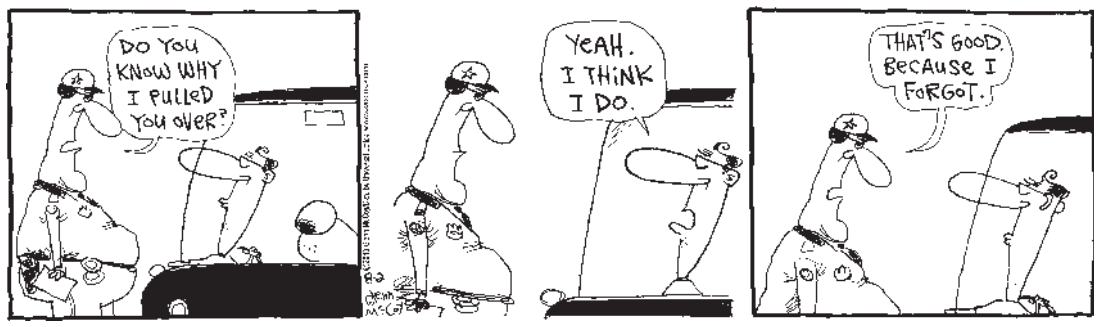
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY. ARE YOU ZACK?
WHO'S ASKING?
KATY NEWMAN'S DAD. I HEARD YOU CALLED HER A DONUT HEAD.
I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO PEOPLE WHO BULLY MY DAUGHTER.
OR PEOPLE WHO BELITTLE DELICIOUS FRIED DESSERT FOODS.
8-2

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Prepared
4 Performance
7 Volleyball venue
12 Bar supply
13 Comedian Margaret
14 Loosen a deadbolt
15 "Platoon" locale
16 Fonzie's sitcom
18 Kreskin's claim
19 Inventor Howe
20 Genius
22 Old French coin
23 Feudal estate
27 Dine
29 Pantry
31 Synagogue VIP
34 Studio 54, e.g.
35 Exaggerate
37 Barracks bed
38 Second letter
39 Chum
41 Ardor
45 Pack to the future?
47 Spring period
48 Teen crush
52 Bruins legend
53 Commandeer
54 Tex- —
55 Sock feature
56 Forbidden
57 Illustrations
58 Type measures

DOWN
1 Tendon
2 Cybermoney
3 Beats
4 Rue the run
5 Alpine abode
6 Subject
7 Purchases
8 Conclusion
9 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
10 Low island
11 Day fragments (Abbr.)
17 McCartney or Newman
21 Marty in "Madagascar," e.g.
23 Mondale nickname
24 Egos' counterparts
25 Common Mkt.
26 To and —
28 Succor
30 Big bother
31 Filch
32 "Hail!"
33 Wager
36 October birthstone
37 Shamrock, for one
40 Scent
42 Overact
43 "Hammerin' Hank"
44 Muses' musicmakers
45 Glitch in print
46 Libretto
48 Place
49 Dos Passos trilogy
50 Tavern
51 Paid player

Solution time: 25 mins.

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E	M	U	■	D	E	B	■	H	I	J	A	B
N	I	T	S	■	W	A	G	■	L	U	G	F
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■	■	■	C	U	E	■	S	L	E	I	G	H
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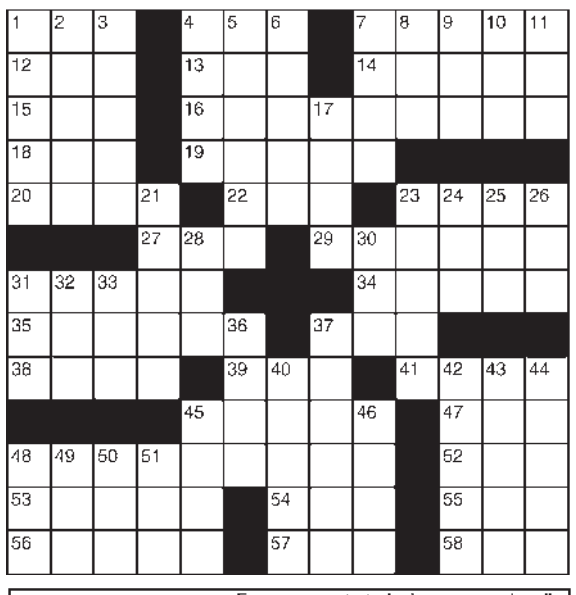
Yesterday's answer 8-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hallie Eisenberg, 21; Sam Worthington, 37; Kevin Smith, 43; Mary-Louise Parker, 49.

Happy Birthday: Work behind the scenes and develop a better lifestyle at home and with the people in your life who count. Short trips or learning something new will give you a greater opportunity to work on projects that offer a different perspective on the way things should be done. Keep a level head and don't let emotions stand between you and success. Your numbers are 6, 13, 20, 29, 33, 37, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Impulse is the enemy. Avoid being pushed around or being taken advantage of. Keep things in perspective when dealing with domestic matters, friends and relatives. Look outside the box for solutions to any problems you face. Communicate openly and honestly. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your perception will be fine-tuned and you will be quick to pick up on what others are thinking. Although relationships are highlighted, emotions may interfere with how you react toward others, especially if your intuition tells you one thing and the signals being sent are different. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stretch your skills and talents to the limit. Don't give anyone the chance to meddle in your affairs. Emotions will be difficult to control and must not be allowed to cause discord due to a misunderstanding between you and someone you love. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take a creative, imaginative approach to love, life and the way you want to move forward personally, professionally and philosophically. Share your feelings but don't stop pursuing your desires if someone doesn't want to follow the same path as you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Visit a place that entices you or that will take your mind off whatever is troubling you. Problems with additional responsibilities may need to be put on the back burner in order to allow you time to determine your next move. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Emotional reactions will stand between you and productivity. Pay attention to detail and finish what you start. Offering positive solutions and direction will help you avoid being railroaded into situations that are likely to lead to discord. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A mini vacation will help rejuvenate you and allow you time to think and put other situations you face into perspective before making a decision that is apt to change the way you move forward personally or professionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get involved in an event or activity that brings you in contact with new people, places or pastimes. Sharing your plans will increase your chance of being successful. Romance is in the stars and relationships enhanced. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Conflicts are likely to lead to a situation that will encourage you to make an emotional decision. Change is required, and although it may be difficult in the end, it will be interesting and helpful and lead to greater encouragement. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): An emotional response to a financial, legal or medical issue will end up being costly. Take a deep breath and consider your options before you jump to conclusions or into action. A practical approach is the only route to take. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Rely on past situations to help you make the right choice now. Use emotional tactics to get your way when dealing with a matter concerning children or your lover. Don't limit what you can do to avoid conflict. Face matters head-on. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Share creative ideas and look for means of entertainment that will inspire you to move forward with your plans. Love is on the rise, and an important relationship can help you establish future direction if you are willing to compromise. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, resourceful and unpredictable. You are helpful and caring.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6	9	4		1		
		9			1		2	
	7			6	5			
	8					2		
				3				
		7					4	
			5	8			7	
	4		2			3		
		1		9	3	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	1	2	5	9	8	6	3
2	6	9	3	8	1	7	5	4
8	3	5	4	7	6	1	9	2
1	8	3	6	4	5	2	7	9
9	4	2	8	3	7	6	1	5
6	5	7	9	1	2	4	3	8
3	9	6	7	2	4	5	8	1
5	2	8	1	6	3	9	4	7
7	1	4	5	9	8	3	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHRIS HADFIELD — ASTRONAUT Solution: 5 letters

Y	E	X	P	E	D	I	T	I	O	N	A	V	E	S
T	N	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	B	S	G	A	O
I	O	A	R	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	U	N	R	H
D	I	M	R	O	Y	L	F	W	I	I	O	F	T	E
D	T	I	A	E	B	A	I	O	T	I	I	L	H	L
O	A	S	L	S	M	E	C	A	T	R	M	I	C	E
C	R	S	B	E	T	A	R	A	S	Y	I	G	A	N
T	O	I	U	S	P	E	C	T	Y	U	L	H	N	E
O	L	O	M	S	L	I	R	R	S	H	T	T	A	E
R	P	N	U	A	N	A	A	S	A	O	O	S	D	L
A	X	L	U	U	I	R	D	L	O	G	N	D	I	T
T	E	N	M	N	O	E	L	E	A	N	O	R	A	T
E	C	M	I	N	R	O	J	A	M	Y	V	A	N	U
H	O	N	O	R	B	I	T	A	O	L	F	W	Z	H
C	G	H	E	L	Y	K	L	A	W	E	C	A	P	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Stews

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Source: MLB threatening A-Rod with lifetime ban

NEW YORK (AP)—Major League Baseball is threatening to kick Alex Rodriguez out of the game for life unless the New York Yankees star agrees not to fight a lengthy suspension for his role in the sport's latest drug scandal, according to a person familiar with the discussions.

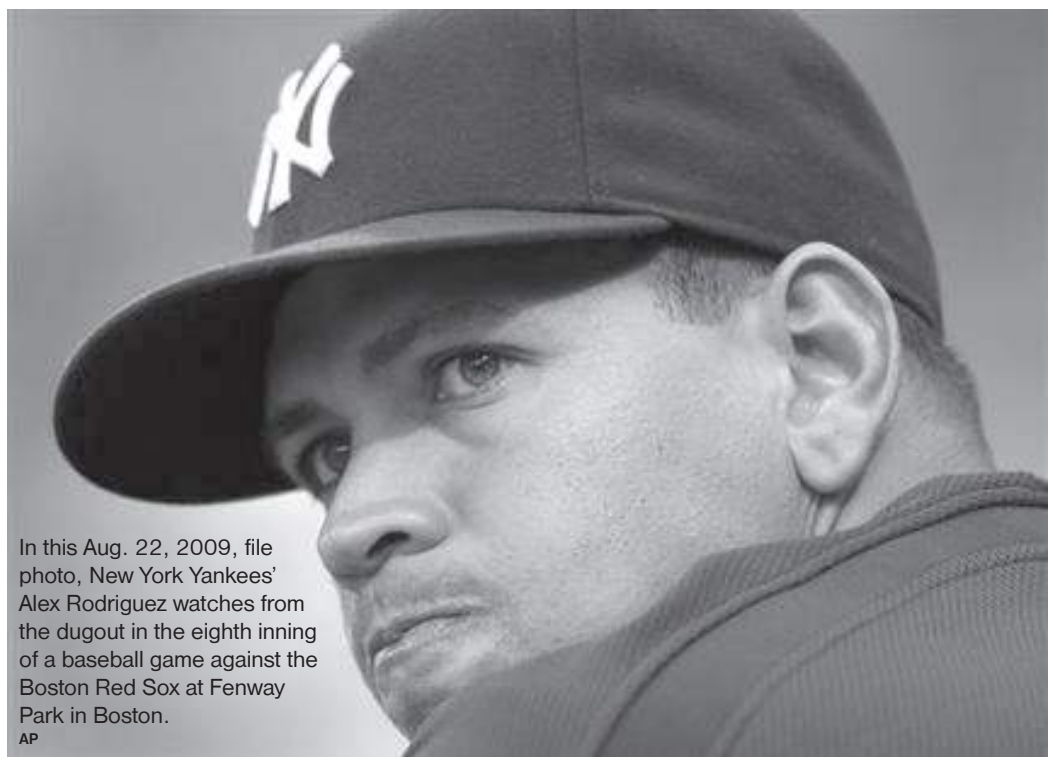
The person spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

Whether Commissioner Bud Selig would actually issue a lifetime suspension was unclear and a permanent ban could be shortened by arbitrator Fredric Horowitz to about 200 games, the person said.

The number of players likely to be disciplined stood at 14 Wednesday.

Front and center is Rodriguez, baseball's highest-paid player and the most prominent one linked in media reports over the past seven months to Biogenesis of America, a closed Florida anti-aging clinic that allegedly distributed banned performance-enhancing drugs.

The Yankees expected Rodriguez to be accused of recruiting other athletes for the clinic, attempting to obstruct MLB's investigation, and not being truthful with MLB in the past. Baseball has considered suspending him for violations of its labor contract and drug agreement.



In this Aug. 22, 2009, file photo, New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez watches from the dugout in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston.
AP

Even if he is banned from baseball, there is precedent for a shortened penalty: When pitcher Steve Howe was given a lifetime ban in 1992 in his seventh suspension for drug or alcohol use, an arbitrator reduced the penalty to 119 days.

A three-time MVP, Rodriguez acknowledged four years ago that he used performance-enhancing substances while with Texas from 2001-03 but repeatedly has denied using them since.

He's been sidelined all season since hip surgery in January and then a quadriceps strain during a minor league rehabilitation assignment in July. The Yankees say he'll start another rehab Friday—Double-A Trenton appeared to be the likely destination.

"Hopefully Alex will be back shortly thereafter," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

Rodriguez didn't stop to talk with reporters after his workout Wednesday at the team's minor league complex in Tampa, Fla.

At first, MLB and the union thought talks on the Biogenesis probe could be completed by Friday, but negotiations to avoid grievances are likely to push back announcements until at least Saturday or Sunday.

Others accused in media reports of receiving performance-enhancing drugs from Biogenesis include a trio of 2013 All-Stars: Texas outfielder Nelson Cruz, San Diego shortstop Everth Cabrera and Detroit shortstop Jhonny Peralta.

Most of the players face 50-game bans as first offenders. Both sides felt urgency to complete the process because by the middle of next week, teams will have fewer than 50 games left. And that would force players to complete suspensions during the playoffs or at the start of next season.

Detroit general manager Dave Dombrowski protected against a possible suspension of Peralta by acquiring slick-fielding infielder Jose Iglesias from Boston in a three-team trade Tuesday night.

"If it were a 15-day thing, like a typical injury, I think we could have comfortably dealt with it with the players we already have," Dombrowski said Wednesday. "But when you start to talk about 50 days and a possible playoff run, we feel better going ahead with Jose."

While MLB told the union which players it intends to suspend, it hasn't issued formal notices of discipline. Because of that, the countdown hasn't started under baseball's Joint Drug Agreement, which says the suspensions are effective on the third business day after the notice is issued.

The sides also haven't decided whether suspensions for first-time offenders who challenge the penalty can be announced before an arbitration decision.

If some stars knew their seasons were about to be cut short, they weren't letting on Wednesday, at least publicly.

"I can't talk about nothing right now. Just wait for the news," Cabrera said Wednesday before playing against Cincinnati.

Peralta thinks he shouldn't be on the list of players linked to Biogenesis.

"It's wrong," he said. "But whatever happens, I need to fight and try to move on."

Toronto outfielder Melky Cabrera, Oakland pitcher Bartolo Colon and San Diego catcher Yasmani Grandal were all suspended for 50 games last year for positive tests for elevated testosterone. MLB informed the union they won't receive additional discipline for that violation, two people familiar with the probe said. They also spoke on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

"Nothing's been told to me," Melky Cabrera said. "I served my suspension last year, but MLB has never told me that it's OK now. I'm seeing it in the press, but I don't know."

Texas was unable to find a replacement bat to fill a void a suspension of Cruz would create.

"I don't think anybody's comfortable losing a significant part of your club, but it's out of our control," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said. "We explored some deal like that. They just didn't come to a head. It wasn't for lack of interest or lack of effort. It was more lack of supply and lack of fit, really."

Drew's RBI single in 15th gives Red Sox 5-4 win

BOSTON (AP)—Stephen Drew singled in the winning run in the 15th inning to lift the Boston Red Sox to a 5-4 victory over the Seattle Mariners and back into first place in the AL East on Wednesday night.

Dustin Pedroia drew a leadoff walk and took second on a groundout by David Ortiz. Mike Napoli was walked intentionally and Jarrod Saltalamacchia struck out. Jonny Gomes then walked, loading the bases, and Drew hit a liner just inside the right-field line as Pedroia scored the decisive run.

Boston moved a half-game ahead of Tampa Bay in the division.

Royals 4, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Alex Gordon hit a two-out triple in the seventh inning and then scored the go-ahead run on an error, and Kansas City won its eighth straight game by beating Minnesota.

The Royals are above .500 at the end of July for the first time since 2003. At 53-51, they are two games over the break-even mark for the first time since May 17. They remained seven games behind Detroit in the AL Central race and 4Ω games back of second-place Cleveland, the current holder of the second wild card spot.

Astros 11, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, rookie left-hander Brett Oberholtzer allowed three hits over seven innings to earn his first major league win, Jason Castro hit a grand slam, and Houston routed Baltimore.

Matt Dominguez homered and had a career-high four hits for the Astros, who built a 9-0 lead in the fourth inning and coasted to their most lopsided victory of the season.

Oberholtzer (1-0) started after Erik Bedard was scratched with a sore shoulder. Making his fourth appearance and first start in the big leagues, Oberholtzer struck out six, walked none and did not let a runner get past first base.

Blue Jays 5, Athletics 2, 10 innings

In Oakland, Calif., Jose Bautista hit a go-ahead double in the top of the 10th inning, and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Oakland.

Bautista doubled off Jesse Chavez (2-3). Rookie catcher Stephen Vogt's second costly passed ball of the game allowed Jose Reyes to advance after a leadoff infield single, and Reyes scored on Bautista's hit.

Rangers 2, Angels 1

In Arlington, Texas, Adrian Beltre led off the bottom of the ninth for Texas with a home run to beat the Los Angeles Angels, completing a three-game series sweep in which the Rangers won each on game-ending homers.

Beltre hit his 23rd homer, connecting off Michael Kohn (1-1).

Nelson Cruz also homered for Texas, his 25th putting the Rangers up 1-0 in the second before Josh Hamilton's tying homer in the seventh for the Angels.

Indians 6, White Sox 5, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Carlos Santana's leadoff home run in the 10th inning sent the Cleveland Indians over the Chicago White Sox for their seventh straight win.

Santana hit a 3-2 pitch from Dylan Axelrod (3-7) into the right field seats for Cleveland's ninth walkoff win of the season.

Tigers 11, Nationals 1

In Detroit, Alex Avila and Torii Hunter hit homers in a five-run second inning and the Detroit Tigers scored five more runs in the fourth inning while routing Washington.

The AL Central-leading Tigers swept the two-game series. They have won five straight, the latest victory coming while star Miguel Cabrera was out of the lineup, a day after aggravating an injury.

Diamondbacks 7, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Wade Miley pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning and Eric Chavez drove in three runs, leading the Arizona Diamondbacks over Tampa Bay.

Paul Goldschmidt hit his 24th homer, scored three runs and reached base four times. Cody Ross had three straight hits and drove in two runs as Arizona broke a three-game losing streak.

Pirates 5, Cardinals 4

In Pittsburgh, Russell Martin drove home Neal Walker with the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates rallied to beat the St. Louis Cardinals.

Martin's sharp grounder off Trevor Rosenthal (1-2) rolled into left field, giving Walker enough time to score from second. The Pirates' fourth straight win over the Cardinals gave Pittsburgh a 2 1/2-game lead in the NL Central.

Braves 9, Rockies 0

In Atlanta, Mike Minor allowed only two hits in seven scoreless innings, Brian McCann hit a three-run homer in a seven-run third, and Atlanta beat Colorado for its sixth straight win.

Freddie Freeman drove in two runs with four hits as the Braves continued their offensive surge with 15 hits. The Braves have scored 29 runs while winning the first three games of the four-game series.

Giants 9, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Chad Gaudin threw seven sharp innings, Brett Pill and Brandon Crawford hit homers, and San Francisco snapped a five-game losing streak with the victory over Philadelphia.

The defending World Series champion Giants are last in the NL West. The Phillies entered 11 1/2 games out of first place and fell to nine back in the wild-card standings.

Reds 4, Padres 1

In San Diego, Homer Bailey came within two outs of a five-hit shutout to end his four-start losing streak and Cincinnati beat San Diego to snap a five-game skid.

Brandon Phillips homered and Joey Votto hit a two-run double for the Reds, who avoided a three-game sweep and ended the Padres' four-game winning streak.

Marlins 3, Mets 2

In Miami, Jake Marisnick hit his first major league home run and Henderson Alvarez pitched into the eighth inning to lead Miami over New York.

Giancarlo Stanton and Placido Polanco also drove in a run each for the Marlins, who dropped the first two games of the four-game series with the Mets.

Mike Dunn got four outs for his second save in place of Steve Cishek, who pitched two innings and took the loss in Tuesday's 4-2 loss to New York.

Cubs 6, Brewers 1

In Chicago, Edwin Jackson pitched eight solid innings, David DeJesus drove in three runs and Chicago beat Milwaukee to salvage the finale of the four-game series.

Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run homer and Starlin Castro belted a solo shot as Chicago closed out a 14-13 July, its first winning calendar month since it went 15-10 last July. Jackson allowed one run and eight hits in his longest outing of the season, staying in the game after a 66-minute rain delay in the sixth inning.

Yankees 3, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Pinch-hitter Lyle Overbay singled in the go-ahead run with two outs in the top of the ninth inning, helping New York defeat Los Angeles.

Overbay singled on a 1-2 pitch from Paco Rodriguez. Robinson Cano scored after reaching on a fielder's choice groundout.

The Yankees added two more runs on an error by Dodgers second baseman Mark Ellis.

Ronald Belisario (4-6) got two outs in the ninth inning, but took the loss. He walked Derek Jeter and pinch-hitter Ichiro Suzuki, who both scored after Belisario was relieved by Rodriguez.

17 Hall of Famers ask Goodell for help

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Seventeen Pro Football Hall of Famers and Dave Robinson, who will be inducted this weekend, have signed a letter telling NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell they are concerned about medical care for former players and the league's "continued denial of the link between repeated head impacts and permanent brain damage."

The letter, obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday and signed by NFL greats including Tony Dorsett, Floyd Little, Leroy Kelly and Paul Krause, comes just a few days ahead of the Hall of Fame festivities in Canton, Ohio.

The league is being sued by about 4,200 players who say they suffer from dementia, Alzheimer's disease and other neurological conditions, which they believe stem from on-field concussions. Ten of the letter's signees are plaintiffs in the ongoing legal fight: Dorsett, Kelly, Krause, Lem Barney, Chris Doleman, Mel Renfro, Tommy McDonald, Randy White, Rayfield Wright and Joe DeLamielleure.

Goodell and the NFL insist that player safety has always been a top priority, and league spokesman Greg Aiello told the AP in an email Wednesday night that the players don't have their facts right.

"We have not seen the letter, but we make no such denial regarding concussions," Aiello said. "In fact, our concussion poster for players in every locker room, created in conjunction with the CDC a few years ago, states: `Repetitive brain injury, when not managed promptly and properly, may cause permanent damage to your brain.'"

In the concussion legal dispute, a federal judge in Philadelphia has ordered the two sides into mediation over how the complaints will be litigated—in court or in arbitration. U.S. District Judge Anita B. Brody asked for a progress report by Sept. 3 and put a gag order on the lawyers involved.

Clearly, there was no silencing of the Hall of Famers, many of whom plan to be in Canton for the 50th anniversary of the football shrine.

"Legions of former players suffer short-term memory loss and other neurological issues, and many cannot even remember taking part in some of the NFL's greatest moments," they wrote to Goodell. "In the meantime, the NFL publicly touts the `benefits' it provides to former players with brain injuries, while denying these players necessary medical monitoring, long-term care, and security.

"No one wants to see another generation of players suffer this fate. As former players, we refuse to stand by quietly and watch men who unknowingly sacrificed their health and future to the NFL go without the care they desperately need.

"Mr. Goodell, we ask you, as the commissioner of the league, to provide the security and care all former players and their families deserve."

John Wall signs contract extension with Wizards

By JOSEPH WHITE
AP SPORTS WRITER

John Wall has missed about one-quarter of the games since he was the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA draft. He hasn't been an All-Star. His team hasn't won more than 29 games in a regular season.

Yet his game—and his team—got considerably better when he returned from an injury last season, and he remains the cornerstone of the Washington Wizards, who took the calculated risk Wednesday of signing the point guard to a contract extension. Two people familiar with the deal say it's a max deal, worth about $80 million over five years.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team's announcement Wednesday did not reveal financial terms. A news conference will be held Thursday.

"He is the cornerstone of our team," Wizards owner Ted Leonsis said in the team's release announcing the extension. "And we have clearly expressed our desire to build around him."

Wall was the top overall pick in the 2010 draft after playing one season of college basketball at Kentucky, immediately becoming the prime building block for a Wizards club that now has missed the playoffs each of the past five seasons.

He has averaged 16.9 points, eight assists, 4.4 rebounds and 1.5 steals in 35.8 minutes during his career, starting 172 of 184 games. Various injuries have caused him to miss an average of 21 games per season, and he appeared in only 42 in 2012-13 because of a stress injury in his left knee cap.

When he returned, the 22-year-old Wall averaged a career-high 18.5 points, along with 7.6 assists, four rebounds and 1.3 steals in 32.7 minutes. He really began to hit his stride late in the season, even showing some signs of developing into an outside shooter. The Wizards went 5-28 without him, 24-25 with him.

If Wall hadn't been able to reach an agreement with the Wizards this offseason, he would have become an unrestricted free agent in 2014.

Eagles' Cooper apologizes for racial slur

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Saying he was "ashamed and disgusted" with himself, Eagles wide receiver Riley Cooper apologized repeatedly for making a racial slur at a Kenny Chesney concert that was caught on video and led to him getting fined.

The video of Cooper using the N-word surfaced Wednesday on the Internet. Cooper issued a statement of apology then met with reporters outside the team's practice facility.

"This is the lowest of lows," Cooper said. "This is not the type of person I want to be portrayed as. This isn't the type of person I am. I'm extremely sorry."

Cooper said he was drinking when he directed the slur at an African-American security guard at the concert in June.

"That's no excuse for what I said. I don't use that term," he said. "I was raised better than that. I have a great mom and dad and they're disgusted with my actions."

Cooper said he was fined a significant amount of money by the Eagles.

"We are shocked and appalled by Riley Cooper's words," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said. "This sort of behavior or attitude from anyone has no role in a civil society. He has accepted responsibility for his words and his actions. He has been fined for this incident."

The league released the following statement: "The NFL stands for diversity and inclusion. Comments like this are wrong, offensive, and unacceptable."

A fifth-round pick out of Florida, Cooper is entering his fourth season in the NFL. He has 46 catches and five touchdowns in three years with the Eagles.

Cooper had tentatively moved into a starting role after Jeremy Maclin tore his right ACL in practice last Saturday. Still, he's not guaranteed a roster spot in Chip Kelly's new offense.

"I'm willing to accept all consequences," Cooper said. "I know no one in Philadelphia is happy with me right now. I accept that. I hope they see the true me and accept my apology. I know it will take a while."

Cooper apologized to teammates after talking to the media.

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Pacquiao dreams of presidency

BOXING

MACAU—Boxing great Manny Pacquiao is harboring thoughts of running for president in his beloved Philippines when he finally hangs up his gloves.

In an exclusive interview with Agence France-Presse Saturday, the most successful Filipino boxer ever, who is also a congressman of Sarangani, admitted he had considered seeking the presidency of the 95 million-strong nation.

When pressed on whether he had thought about shooting for the top job, the soft-spoken 34-year-old replied "Yes."

Drawing parallels between his boxing and political careers, the former world champion in eight weight divisions said: "When I started boxing, of course I was planning, you know, and thinking about getting to become a champion. So when I enter politics it's the same thing.

"But, you know, it's far away," he said, adding: "It's God's will."

Before that, however, Pacquiao whose record stands at 54 wins, five losses and two draws, must concentrate on his latest bout—a post breakfast-time tear-up with American Brandon Rios set at The Venetian resort-hotel in Macau at 10 a.m. on Nov. 24.

PDI

Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao escorts wife Vice Gov. Jinkee to the Batasang Pambansa.

The unconventional start time is for the benefit of the lucrative US pay-per-view audience, who will be settling down to watch the fight mid-evening on Saturday, as top promoter Bob Arum tries to elbow his way into the China market.

Despite his last fight ending in a disastrous knockout, when Juan Manuel Marquez caught him with a huge right hand that saw the Filipino crumple to the canvas, Pacquiao refuses to entertain the notion that he will lose a third straight bout, or retire.

He said he was "100 percent" sure he would beat Rios (31-1-1), giving him one more chance to regain his credibility—and potentially another shot at a world title.

"He's OK but I can say he's a greasy fighter and he loves to fight inside, he loves to fight toe-to-toe," Pacquiao said in an interview on Saturday as he kicked off a promotional tour for the Rios battle.

"This is going to be a good fight —more action in the ring. Hopefully he won't run away."

Pacquiao insists he is as fit as ever, will focus on not leaving himself open to Marquez-style punishment, and has ignored calls from friends, family and media commentators, fearful for his health, to call it a day.

Once regarded as the world's best pound-for-pound fighter, he dismisses the possibility of defeat at the hands of the much younger —and possibly hungrier—US foe.

"There's a little bit of pressure for this fight but I believe in myself that I can still fight and improve," he said. "I still can knock somebody out in the ring."

Pacquiao conceded that his dearest were desperate for him to bow out of the fight game.

"Especially my mother," he admitted. "My mother doesn't want me to fight anymore, she doesn't like it," he said. "She wants me to focus on serving people."

His trainer too, the legendary Freddie Roach, has told ESPN that if he loses to Rios it will be the last time he sets foot in the ring.

Acknowledging he is no longer a young fighter, Pacquiao said: "Of course, my mind is still there but I have to adjust a little bit of something in my body because I'm 34."

And the one question that has for years dogged Pacquiao—whether a dream clash with undefeated world champion Floyd Mayweather will ever happen?

"I've stopped thinking about him because I don't think he will fight me. I've been waiting four years already," he said.

Pacquiao, a second-term lawmaker, has so far filed five bills in the House of Representatives.

The measures he principally authored seek to create a boxing commission, put up breast care centers in every region, establish a community fitness center in every barangay, build a provincial hospital in Sarangani, and amend the Philippine Sports Commission act.

Of the five bills, the breast care center measure is the one that's not new for him, since he had authored a similar bill in the 15th congress in 2010.

Not surprisingly, Pacquiao is also looking after the welfare of active and old boxers.

A boxing commission would be tasked to provide procedures to protect boxers from physical and financial exploitation, and provide those who compete and win in international matches with comprehensive health-care benefits, alternative livelihood programs, a life insurance system, and reliable death benefits.

Another bill he filed seeks to have fitter Filipinos.

Under his measure, these centers in every barangay would promote physical education, wellness, and sports activities. These would be staffed by full-time fitness instructors who will be paid by the municipal or city health office.

The Sarangani lawmaker also wants to put up a provincial hospital in his province, with at least 100 beds. He seeks to allocate P200 million for the project.

He also seeks to amend the charter of the PSC.

He said there were legal ambiguities that need to be clarified, such as the computation of the commission's actual share of funds from other government agencies. The terms of commissioners must be fixed as well, and their mission redefined to ensure proper coordination with stakeholders, he added. ***(PDI)***

NOT

From Page 36

A-Rod will surely get more. Right now the over-under seems to be the rest of this year and next, but there's speculation Bud Selig could use his power to try to ban Rodriguez for life if he fights it.

It's almost unthinkable. The player who once seemed destined to go down as one of the greatest to play the game could be banned for life from that very game.

Think that might cause some other players to think twice before they juice again?

"Nobody will take these drugs if they believe the minute they are caught they're out for good," former baseball commissioner Fay Vincent said. "They just won't."

A lifetime ban might seem a bit extreme, though in A-Rod's case it goes beyond the simple use of performance-enhancing drugs. The Yankees expect him to be accused of recruiting other athletes to a Miami clinic where drugs were dispensed, and trying to obstruct MLB's investigation into the clinic. He also faces questions about whether he was truthful with baseball when asked about his relationship with Dr. Anthony Galea, who pleaded guilty two years ago to a federal charge of bringing unapproved drugs into the United States from Canada.

Just how harsh the penalty will be, by all accounts, depends largely on whether Rodriguez is willing to make a deal. Either way, this is Selig's best chance to finally make a statement against the scourge of PEDs in baseball.

"You can't have the game knocked off by these drugs," Vincent said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "Either we win or chemistry wins, and if chemistry wins there is no game."

So far chemistry has the lead, as evidenced by the way the record book has been rewritten in the Steroids Era. Even with better testing, harsher suspensions and a change in the culture of the once obstinate players' union in recent years, the latest scandal shows PEDs still are rampant in baseball.

Take a look at the quality of players expected to be punished. They include not only A-Rod, but also Texas outfielder Nelson Cruz, San Diego shortstop Everth Cabrera and Detroit shortstop Jhonny Peralta—all picked for the 2013 All-Star game. Another 2013 All-Star, Oakland pitcher Bartolo Colon, was suspended last year following a positive testosterone test, as were Toronto outfielder Melky Cabrera and San Diego catcher Yasmani Grandal, though they aren't expected to receive additional time off.

There are others, a dozen or so in all who will be penalized. But it is Rodriguez who dominates the conversation, and it is Rodriguez who surely will take the biggest hit of all.

He wanted to get back on the field before his punishment was imposed, but the Yankees were having none of it. Tricked once already into giving A-Rod a $275 million, 10-year contract, the Steinbrenner sons weren't about to be tricked again just when baseball is about to take a giant problem—and at least part of a giant salary—off their hands.

It's hard to be sympathetic toward A-Rod, mostly because he's not a sympathetic figure. If what he's accused of doing is accurate—and the guess is baseball has even more on Rodriguez than has been leaked—he's made a mockery of the game that has made him rich beyond belief.

Some of those riches came because he cheated the game and the fans who thought they were paying to see an honest at-bat. He also cheated every player who doesn't have half his talent, yet somehow found the resolve to refuse to take PEDs no matter the potential financial rewards.

"The games have to have rules and they have to be played fairly, or they're not games," Vincent said. "If we can't stop this, we're going to have professional wrestling instead of real competition."

Actually, professional wrestling might be a good fit for Rodriguez. He would have to play the role of a villain, of course, but that's something he's had practice doing already.

Whatever A-Rod does, his spectacular fall should be a cautionary tale to athletes everywhere. This was a guy who didn't need to cheat to be great, yet he cheated anyway.

If he's a scapegoat for those before him who were never caught, then so be it. If he never again plays a game in the major leagues, then too bad.

TEEN

From Page 36

off and gave their respective messages to the team.

"You will play against some U19 teams that are warming up for the AFC U19 tournament. They will be very competitive, but these are the kind of players and this is the kind of tournament we need to become better players. Do your best and represent the CNMI well, on and off the pitch. To the parents of our players, thank you for supporting your children," Tan said.

The NMIFA president also thanked those who did not make the 18-player cut, saying that despite not being selected on the traveling squad, Jake Lee, Ryu Tanzawa, Carlson Cruzat, Oliver Lumbad, James Ermitanio, Chad Shankweiler, and David Yang, still show up for the training sessions and some even attended the send-off.

For her part, Izuka, said having about 30 players on the pool and trying out for the Teen Ayuyus is a testament to the significant rise of interest in football by the island's young players.

"I remember in 2006 when we called a try-out for an off-island tournament, we don't even have enough players and we have to look for players in other sports and encourage them to try soccer. Now, we have 18 and more reserves. We've come a long way," Izuka said.

Meanwhile, the Virginia-based Barry was named captain of the Teen Ayuyus, who will challenge North Korea, Guam, Hong Kong, Macau, and Chinese-Taipei in the EAFF tournament that will run from Aug. 7 to 12 at the GFA Soccer Field in Dededo.

It will be Barry's second stint with the CNMI squad this year alone, as he also represented the Commonwealth to the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup Qualifiers in Nepal in February.

"It's an honor to represent the CNMI again. When you wear the CNMI uniform and you have the CNMI flag in your chest, you're not a player anymore, you are a soldier, willing to fight hard and make your team proud," said Barry, who arrived on island just last week.

"I am adjusting well because I played with some of the guys when I was still here. While away, I attended camps and have been playing in school and club leagues. It's great to see that we have a lot of players now—younger ones—because they will be the foundation of our future men's team," Barry added.

Barry and the rest of the CNMI delegation to the EAFF event will leave Saipan for Guam on Monday and will spend the remaining days on island training for the competition.

"We're now a complete team with Bo and Kennedy back (from short vacation). We're ready," Noetzel said.

REZNE

From Page 36

who was scheduled to race in his last event—the 200m breaststroke—last night. He also holds the CNMI mark in the 200m breaststroke, timing in at 2:23.35 in Shanghai, two years ago.

Meanwhile, Georgia's Irakil Bolkvadze won Heat 1 of the 200m IM morning race at the Palau Sant Jord with a time of 2:03.55, while Hungary's Laazio Cseh posted the fastest qualifying time with his 1:57.70. The event had its semi-finals in the evening with the U.S.' Ryan Lochte making it to Thursday night's (Friday morning on Saipan) finals with a field best time of 1:57.07.

In other news about CNMI swimmers, Angel De Jesus debuts in the World Championships tonight when she competes in the 50m butterfly, while Victoria Chentsova, who set a personal best time in the 400m freestyle, will go for another PBT when she joins the qualifying race in the 800m freestyle. Kensuke Kimura will also compete today via the 100m butterfly—his last event in Barcelona. Then tomorrow, De Jesus will have her final race—the 50m freestyle.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

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AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	65	44	.596	_
Tampa Bay	64	44	.593	1/2
Baltimore	59	49	.546	5 1/2
New York	56	51	.523	8
Toronto	50	57	.467	14

Central Division

Detroit	61	45	.575	_
Cleveland	59	48	.551	2 1/2
Kansas City	53	51	.510	7
Minnesota	45	59	.433	15
Chicago	40	65	.381	20 1/2

West Division

Oakland	63	45	.583	_
Texas	59	49	.546	4
Seattle	50	57	.467	12 1/2
Los Angeles	48	58	.453	14
Houston	36	70	.340	26

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	63	45	.583	_
Washington	52	56	.481	11
Philadelphia	50	57	.467	12 1/2
New York	48	57	.457	13 1/2
Miami	41	65	.387	21

Central Division

Pittsburgh	65	42	.607	_
St. Louis	62	44	.585	2 1/2
Cincinnati	60	49	.550	6
Chicago	49	58	.458	16
Milwaukee	46	62	.426	19 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	57	49	.538	_
Arizona	55	52	.514	2 1/2
Colorado	51	58	.468	7 1/2
San Diego	50	59	.459	8 1/2
San Francisco	47	59	.443	10

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mawati's Francis Serrano drives against the Snipers' Tito Alano during the fourth quarter of their game in the DL Corp. caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mawati brings down Snipers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mawati manhandled the Snipers, 87-69, in the second game in the 2013 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The Snipers and Mawati tiff was a five against 12 battle and with only Jonathan Jones' guns blazing for the former, the eventual winning team coasted to its third victory in as many games. The Snipers remained winless after four matches.

Mawati capitalized on the depleted roster of the Snipers early taking a double-digit lead at the end of the first quarter, 28-18. Jason Bahillo unloaded two triples, while Bryan Ajoste and Marlo Ibanez had three field goals apiece to put Mawati in control of the match.

Jones scored the Snipers' first 6 points and finished the opening canto with 11 points. He continued to carry the heavy load for the Snipers in the next three periods and without enough help from his teammates, the Snipers only sliced Mawati's lead to 9.

Mawati kept its wide distance, as it showed no mercy to the Snipers in the fourth quarter, pressured the latter's ball handlers from the backcourt. On offense, all 12 Mawati players made it to the board with Bahillo on top of the list with his 15 points. Jones led all scorers with his 43 markers.

Ballaholics 64, Wushin/Kixx 58

In the first game, Ballaholics gained its second straight win after outclassing Wushin Express/Kixx Engine Oil.

Ballaholics knocked down three triples in the latter half of the fourth period to eke out the 6-point win. Ben Sablan made the first triple, Derrick Rangamar drained the second one, and Nokki Saralu buried the last. Sablan and Rangamar finished with 12 points apiece, the same output Joe Imperial contributed to the team's cause.

Michael Achas had 26 markers for Wushin, which absorbed its fourth loss in as many games. Wushin kept up with Ballaholics in the first three quarters of the game to boost its bid for the elusive first win. However, the much younger and faster Ballaholics saved some gas in the fourth canto to keep a safe distance against the veteran crew of Wushin.

First Game

Ballaholics 64 – B. Sablan 12, Rangamar 12, Imperial 12, Pena 10, Cangco 5, Kaipat 4, N. Saralu 3, R. Saralu 2, J. Sablan 2.

Wushin/Kixx 58 – Achas 26, Tibayan 8, Tengco 7, Maranan 5, Ebuen 4, De Jesus 4, Farinas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-13, 30-30, 48-42, 64-58.

Second Game

Mawati 87 – Bahillo 15, Ibanez 13, Ajoste 12, Guntar 9, Samson 6, Enriquez 6, Serrano 5, Corotan 4, Reyes 4, Bautista 4, Rena 3, Buniag 2.

Snipers 69 – Jones 43, Cabagat 10, Olfindo 9, Alano 5, Ramos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-18, 49-32, 66-54, 87-69.

Shirley's Classic launches new category

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2013 Shirley's Coffee Shop Singles and Doubles Badminton Tournament will feature a new category, as the event dubbed as the Shirley's Classic kicks off tonight at the TSL Sports Complex.

This year's Shirley's Classic will have competitions in the women's and men's 35-and-above doubles besides its regular classes A, B, and C games. The men's 35-and-above doubles category attracted nine teams that are divided into two groups. Group A has the tandems of newcomer Ariel Mariano and Celso Agui, Jerry Hibi and Y. Park, Eydie Uy and Noel Wong, Chris Hilario and Puy Macario, and Aries Cordero and Joseph Santos. The pair of Alvin Alvarez and Edwin Montoya leads Group B, which also has the duos of Jojo Savellano and Roger Vales, Yun Jun Lee and Son Jae Ok, and Joel Ortega and Oh Im Bog. Players in this age group will play in a round-robin elimination with the Top 2 teams in each pool advancing to the playoffs.

The same round-robin format in the elimination will be implemented in the women's 35-and-up doubles, but the Top 4 teams will make it to the playoffs. Seven pairs entered this competition and the list includes Gigi Zapanta and Cristy Villaflor, Merlie Tolentino and Roxe Lazaro, Emily Vargas and Judy Mendietta, Lani Santos and Elna Curate, Cheng Saturno and Michelle Santos, and Alma Ortega and Lucelle Lampera.

In the Shirley's Classic' regular women's doubles, the tried-and-tested pair of Alma Ortega and Dianne Francisco, who ruled last year's class C, are moving up to Class B. The champion pair is in Group A with the tandems of Zapanta and Villaflor, Lampera and Rowena Sison, and Windy Fernandez and Toshiko Obata. Loida Ito and Elna Curate lead Group B and will be joined by Tolentino and Shirley Kim, Vargas and Lani Santos and Saturno and Michelle Santos.

In class B, Francisco and Sison will go up against the youthful pairs of Nicole Malasarte and Mika Serrano and Havika Farro and Mykki Caracut. In class A, defending champion Hannah Choi will have a new partner in Ortega and they will square off against Elna Curate and Loida Ito, Fernandez and Lani Bartolome, and Toshiko Obata and Anarose Omori.

The women's singles divisions will also feature the players competing in the doubles category with the class B getting the most participants with nine. Class C had six players, while class A lured five competitors.

In the men's singles, the classes A and B drew five players each, while class C had eight entries. In the doubles, 2012 Class A champions Andreau Galvez and Hapi Gabriel have new partners this year with the former teaming up with fellow Community Badminton Club member Jexler Caranto and the latter joining forces with Brandon Talania. Other pairs joining the men's class A doubles are Glenn Bluutjens and Sam Jones, Ezekiel Macario and Jordan Pangilinan, Jerry Hibi and Santos, Hilario and Cordero, and Ferdie Arago and Macoi Aguda.

In the men's B doubles, there are 10 pairs with Mariano and Agui, Hibi and Park, Gary Bandoja and Mario Diola, Ezekiel Macario and Pangilinan, and Hilario and Talania. Group B has Panapa Peteru and S. Cai, Alvarez and Montoya, Ortega and Im Bog, Kanata Omori and Deether Edralin, and Santos and Cordero.

Class C has seven pairs in A.J Ortega and Allan, Peteru and Agui, Park and Cai, Uy and Wong, Sando Park and You Hancheo, Yun Jun Lee and Jong Min Lee, and Ok and Young San You.

Meanwhile, the opening ceremony for the Shirley's Classic begins at 6:30pm and games will follow after.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Macoi Aguda, seen here returning a low shot in a previous badminton tournament, is one of the players competing in the 2013 Shirley's Classic, which kicks off tonight at the TSL Sports Complex.

Last call for Tournament of Champions

Golfers interested in competing in the prestigious 18th Annual Tournament of Champions have until today, 12pm to register for the event that will be held this Saturday and Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

TOC chair Ben Babauta said they are expecting 200 golfers for the two-day competition and as of last Wednesday, more than 100 have already turned in their registration forms. Babauta added entry forms received include 11 from Japan and several others from Korea, China, Guam, Rota, and Tinian.

Golfers will be competing in eight categories: Championship Flight, A, B, C, Senior, Super Senior, Ladies Low Gross, and Ladies Low Net. The Top 5 finishers in each flight in the men's division and Top 3 in the women's will get prizes. The Top 3 in the men's and Ladies Low Gross will get cash prizes ($600, 500, and $400), while the other two will get in-kind prizes, while the Top 3 in the Ladies Low Net will receive trophies.

TOC and its supporters are also giving away hole-in-one prizes. Joeten Motors and Triple J have allotted a 2013 Ford Escape and 2013 Hyundai Accent, respectively, to the lucky hole-in-one winners, while Delta Airlines is giving away two business elite tickets to anywhere in the U.S. Two more business class tickets (to Europe) courtesy of Asian Airlines are also at stake as hole-one-in prize. Cash prizes can also be won in the closest to the pin and longest drive contests.

"Hundreds of thousands prizes are at stake in this premier golf tournament on Saipan and this will not be possible without the help of our supporters. We would like to say thank you to all sponsors, businesses, and individuals that consistently support our efforts to raise money for the Saipan Beautification Fund. We could not do this without you," said Babauta, adding that this year's TOC is hoping to raise $30,000 for the group's beautification projects. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Source: MLB threatening A-Rod with lifetime ban
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mawati brings down Snipers
PAGE 35

Rezne resets CNMI mark in 200m IM

THE REPORTER'S ACADEMY UK
The CNMI's Rezne Wong does the backstroke part of the 200m individual medley race in the 15th FINA World Championships last Wednesday at the Palau Sant Jord in Barcelona, Spain.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Rezne Wong kicked off his campaign in the 15th FINA World Championships with a record-breaking swim last Wednesday in Barcelona, Spain.

Wong competed in the 200m individual medley in Day 4 of the biennial event and clocked in at 2:9.59 to crush the CNMI national mark (2:10.10), which he owned and recorded on July 27, 2011 during the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai, China.

The 22-year-old swimmer raced on Heat 1, Lane 0 and had split times of 27.10 seconds in the butterfly, 33.38 seconds in the backstroke, 36.70 seconds in breaststroke, and 32.41 seconds in the freestyle. Wong finished ahead of Dominican Republic's Jean Lula Gomez (2:10.78) and fellow Oceania Swimming Federation bet Douglas Miller (2:14:27) of Fiji.

The CNMI swimmer was interviewed by The Reporter's Academy UK's Alice McAlpine after his first event and said he was still pleased with his time though he was aiming to break the 2:09-barrier.

"I was happy about it but I wish I'd got a 2.08 or 2.07, but you put in the training, you go to race and give it all you've got. I've done a lot of breaststroke work this summer because that's my biggest leg. I felt a bit sluggish trying to keep my tempo up but you do what you can."" Wong was quoted as saying in a report McAlpine submitted to The Reporter's Academy UK.

The University of Hawaii-Manoa swimmer also told McAlpine that the ongoing competition in Barcelona is his fifth World Championships stint.

"It's great, I've been to the last five World Championships and it's absolutely amazing. It's never the same each time," said Wong,

See REZNE on Page 34

Teen Ayuyus up for tough EAFF qualifier

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U18 National Team is ready to take on a big challenge in the 2013 EAFF Regional Qualifier in Guam.

"We will be playing in a very competitive tournament and we take this in a positive way. We want to face winners, we want to beat winners," CNMI coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Johann Noetzel said yesterday during a send-off ceremony for the team at the lobby of the Kanoa Resort.

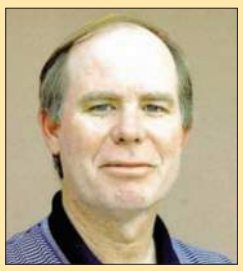
Joining Noetzel at the ceremony were assistant coach Jershwin Angeles, team manager Norman Del Rosario, physiotherapist Pamela Carhill, equipment manager Rose Lazaro and players Christopher Aninzo, Joshua Galarion, Diego Masga, Kennedy Izuka, John Taisacan, Enrico Del Rosario, Bo Barry, Kenneth Domingo, William Hinson II,Won Young Kim, Jireh Yobech, Joel Fruit, Dakota Hall, Terrence Belcher, Scott Kim, Jordan Butcher, Jehn Joyner, and Yoshi Mafnas. NMIFA president Jerry Tan and vice president Vickie Izuka were present, too, at the send-

See TEEN on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players and officials of the CNMI U18 National Team pose for a group photo during a send-off ceremony for their participation in the 2013 EAFF Regional Qualifier in Guam yesterday at the lobby of Kanoa Resort.

Not a lot of sympathy for Alex Rodriguez

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist



Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

The Detroit Tigers know what's coming, so they went out and got themselves a new shortstop for the rest of the season. The Yankees know, too, though they don't seem nearly as concerned about their upcoming loss.

The dominoes are falling in baseball's latest drug scandal and by now everyone but Alex Rodriguez has a good idea what their punishment will be. For A-Rod, it's a bit more complicated, though the one thing that seems virtually certain is that he'll never put on the pinstripes again.

The Yankees don't want him, and neither does baseball. Long a target of fans because of his oversized contract and unchecked ego, he's now the biggest target of the biggest probe Major League Baseball has ever launched into the drug use that has infested the sport for the better part of two decades.

Ryan Braun got nearly a half year off for lying and cheating, but

See NOT on Page 34